Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you plan to wear an orange shirt anytime this week?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

21 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Powell for Obama

Colin Powell, a Republican, broke with the party Sunday and endorsed Democrat Barack Obama for president.

NATION...Page 14

Blackwell, 86

Mr. Blackwell, the acerbic designer whose annual worst-dressed list skewered celebrities, has died.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

VFW Saipan to host candlelit vigil for Manglona. **PAGE 2**
Four cops pulled out from DEA Task Force. **PAGE 3**

Senate budget plan drops ban on funding Fitial lawsuit

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Senate has dropped a provision in the budget that bars the governor from using taxpayers' money to fund the lawsuit he had filed against the U.S. government to block immigration federalization, saying the provision is unnecessary.

The Senate on Friday approved a 53-page substitute budget bill that appropriates $156.7 million of projected revenue for central government operations during fiscal year 2009. The Senate-passed version of the budget includes a host of changes to the one previously passed by the House of Representatives.

ANALYSIS

One of the major changes is the removal of the prohibition on the use of public funds for the governor's controversial lawsuit. Sen. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan, author of the substitute bill and chairwoman of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, said the provision is no longer needed because the Senate's version specifies where every government penny should go.

Pangelinan

Unlike the House version, which gives Gov. Benigno R. Fitial free rein to decide how

See SENATE on Page 4

IF MONUMENT PLAN PUSHES THROUGH

'CNMI may regain control over its submerged lands'

White House Council on Environmental Quality chief James Connaughton speaks before CNMI lawmakers Monday on the Bush administration's proposal to establish a national marine monument in the waters around the CNMI's northern islands.
STEFAN SEBASTIAN

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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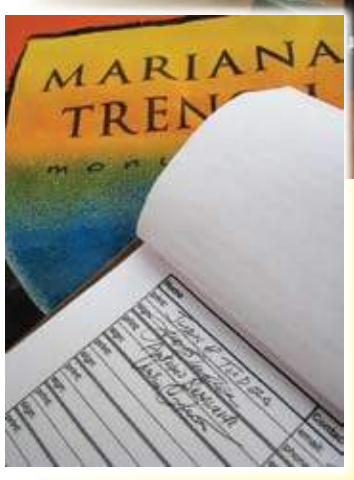
BUSINESS EDITOR

In a conference with CNMI House and Senate lawmakers Monday, White House Council on Environmental Quality chief James Connaughton said President Bush's bid to establish a national marine monument in the waters around the CNMI's northern islands could let some economic activity like undersea mining take place there and restore much of the local government's control over nearshore ocean resources.



At issue in the conference was the Bush administration's proposal to preserve 115,000 square miles of ocean encompassing the islands of

See CNMI on Page 4

The signature of Saipan's mayor, Juan Tudela, on a petition favoring the creation of a national marine monument in the waters around the CNMI's northern islands. The Friends of the Monument, a local community group, has taken 5,502 signatures on the petition, which they plan to submit to federal officials.
COURTESY OF FRIENDS OF THE MONUMENT

5,502: A *monumental number*

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Supporters of the White House's proposal to establish a national marine monument in the ocean waters around the CNMI's northern islands on Monday unveiled the results

See 5,502 on Page 4

Local

VFW Saipan to host candlelit vigil for Manglona

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is inviting the public to join its members in a candlelight vigil to pay respect for Staff Sgt. Julian Manglona, whose body will be flown in Thursday morning at the Saipan International Airport.

VFW Saipan Post 3457 Commander Mariano Fajardo said that Manglona's body would arrive from Japan via Northwest Airlines flight 100. The exact arrival time is 1:20am Oct. 23.

"We are informing the community to join us and the family and friends of Sgt. Manglona to show respect for him," Fajardo said in a telephone interview yesterday.

Manglona

He said the candlelight vigil will be held along Airport Road, like in the past when the VFW did similar shows of respects for soldiers from the CNMI who were killed in Iraq.

"I know it would be too early in the morning for all of us but we want them to join us," Fajardo urged.

Manglona collapsed during a 6-mile run as part of his training at Fort Hood, Texas, before deployment to Kuwait. He later died at a nearby hospital. He was 39.

Manglona, a reserve officer for the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the United States Army, left Saipan in July this year after being called to active duty.

Manglona, who hails from Tinian, had previously served in the Middle East. His scheduled trip to Kuwait would have been his second in the region.

He re-enlisted in the Army in 2004.

He returned to the CNMI, two years later in 2006 and became a police officer.

GCA starts Missions Convention activities

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Students, parents and teachers of Grace Christian Academy paraded around the campus yesterday in their colorful costumes to start a weeklong activity in connection with its 2008 Missions Convention.

The school has invited special guest speakers, husband and wife Jerry and Karen Jacob, who are based in Fiji and are Area Directors of the Assemblies of God World Missions for the Pacific Oceania Region.

Today's activities include Grades 9 and 6 class presentations and Missions Convention Service.

On Wednesday, Grades 10 and 7 will also have their class presentations, while entries for the Grades 12 and 8 (Paul section) will have their turn.

Winners of the essay and poster contests and best classroom setup will be announced on Friday morning.

In the evening, there will be a Missions Convention Service at the church with the students in their cultural attire.

In a statement, Senior Pastor Reverend Ray Kinsella said GCA is blessed to have the Jacobs as guest speakers for the Missions month.

He said the Jacobs are the most down-to-earth and caring people, having been spent 20 years serving the Pacific Islands such as Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Guam.

Kinsella said the Missions' theme this year focuses on the fact "that there are no exceptions for love of God."

"Jerry and Karen exemplify that truth everyday as they travel to our remote islands, many of which are known to no one but God and he loves everyone there," Kinsella said.

The Jacobs said they would be "challenging the congregation with the need to reach the lost."

"What needs to happen to each of us to reach the lost? What makes the church a soul winning church?" they asked.

The Jacobs also coordinate the efforts of HealthCare Ministries, Convoy of Hope and Asia's Little Ones in Pacific Oceania.

Their next stop will be Palau and Papua New Guinea.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Jerry and Karen Jacobs pose before a brief chat about their Healthcare Ministries in Pacific island countries yesterday at the Grace Christian Academy Church.

Media to help elevate work on climate change in region

The Pacific region has taken a new approach towards climate change by partnering with media organizations from in the Pacific to help them report on the issue as comprehensively as possible.

Last week, the regional organization, South Pacific Regional Environmental Program, flew 10 regional journalists into Samoa for a week's training on the issue, running alongside the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable meeting.

The CNMI was represented by *Saipan Tribune* reporter Kristi Eaton.

Regional journalist and workshop trainer Makereta Komai expressed hope that by the end of the week regional journalists had a better understanding of climate change in the region and its environmental impacts.

The trainers are also targeting the media to help with the mitigation and adoption of climate change from within their own countries, but at the same time be able to give skeptics the attention in order to have a "balance reporting".

Regional journalists also provided wide coverage of the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable meeting in Apia.

Stakeholders from the private and public sectors in the region shared information at the roundtable on current and planned regional and international actions on climate change related to the framework and action plan.

Regional journalists at the workshop traveled from the Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Cook Islands, Samoa, Fiji and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(Pacific Magazine)***

Four cops pulled out from DEA Task Force

By FERDIE DELA TORRE
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REPORTER

Four Saipan police officers were pulled out from the Drug Enforcement Administration NMI Task Force effective last Sunday, according to the Department of Public Safety.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said the four police officers would be assigned to the DPS Criminal Investigation Division.

"At CID, the [four officers] will still be doing narcotics operation," Ogumoro said.

Asked whether the pullout from the DEA Task Force would hamper anti-drug operation in the CNMI, a police official said, "That has to be seen."

The official said that, with the pullout, police officers would no longer be able to use the DEA laboratory and its high tech equipment.

A DEA Task Force member who requested anonymity said they could not do anything but to follow the pullout order.

The CNMI government recently withdrew local enforcement officers composed of six police officers and one customs officer from the DEA Task Force.

Gov. Benigno Fitial ordered the pullout after local companies that bring Chinese tourists into the CNMI protested over DEA's actions that subjected passengers of a Shanghai Airlines flight to intensive body searches last Oct. 4.

Finance Secretary Eloy Inos had stated that the withdrawal will continue until the CNMI government gets a full explanation of the Oct. 4 incident from DEA.

Tinian employee confirmed to election panel

The Senate has confirmed the governor's appointment of an employee at the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission to the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Donald M. Hofschneider received the unanimous vote of the Senate on Friday. He will serve as a member of the Election Commission, representing Tinian. His term will expire on Oct. 21, 2011.

"The lieutenant governor and I are confident that Mr. Hofschneider is qualified and will be an asset on this important board," the governor said in a message to the Senate.

Hofschneider currently works for the Tinian gaming commission. He joined the commission as licensing officer in April 2000 and was promoted in June 2002 to his current job as fiscal officer. He worked for the Tinian Mayor's Office as researcher and accountant from 1994 to 1997, and as chief of planning and budget from 1998 to 2000.

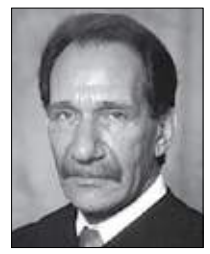
Hofschneider's first major task as a member of the Election Commission is to help conduct the historic election on Nov. 4, 2008, when local voters will pick the Commonwealth's first ever delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Also sitting on the Election Commission are chair Frances M. Sablan, Elizabeth DLG. Aldan, Melvin B. Sablan, Jose L. Itibus, and Jesus M. Sablan, all from Saipan; Jose P. Kiyoshi from Tinian; and Miranda V. Manglona from Rota. One seat for Rota is vacant. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Notorious burglar gets one year in prison

Notorious burglar Seiichi Aoki was slapped with a one-year prison term over four criminal cases.

After completing the sentence, Seiichi Aoki, 23, a Palauan, will be immediately transferred to the custody of the Commonwealth or federal immigration authorities for deportation.


Wiseman

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Aoki to one year in prison for riot in the first case, and one year in jail for burglary in the second case.

Wiseman ordered the defendant to spend one year in jail each for two counts of violating his probation.

Wiseman said all sentences shall run concurrently. He gave the defendant credit for a total of 177 days he has already served in jail.

The judge said Aoki shall be released from the Department of Corrections on April 14, 2009, to the custody of CNMI or federal immigration authorities for deportation from the CNMI.

Aoki was also required to pay a $100 court assessment fee.

The defendant signed a plea agreement with the government. He entered a guilty plea.

Police said that in May 2008 Aoki was arrested for burglarizing a house on Saipan by entering through the bathroom's window.

On Sept. 13, 2006, Aoki pleaded guilty to burglary and was sentenced to 30 days in jail. He was placed on three years of probation.

In May 2007, Aoki pleaded guilty to burglary and escape in another case. He was sentenced to 165 days and placed on one-year probation. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Senate committee holds hearing on removal of CUC price tag

The Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication will conduct a public hearing today on two bills concerning the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Manglona

The committee, led by Sen. Paul A. Manglona, called the hearing to gather information and testimonies on the proposed removal of the $250-million price tag set by a just-passed law for the sale of the Commonwealth's power system.

The legislative panel also hopes to collect input on a House-approved legislation requiring CUC to establish an Internet payment system for its customers.

Witnesses invited to the public hearing are CUC executive director Antonio Muña, Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, acting Attorney General Gregory Baka, and the members of the Public Utilities Commission.

The hearing will be held in the Senate chamber at the Legislative Building on Capital Hill, starting at 10am.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes introduced the bill designed to remove the much-criticized artificial price floor for the sale of CUC's power division. The price tag was part of the CUC privatization measure that the Legislature earlier this month passed despite the lack of ample review and public input, and over the governor's objections.

In the amendment bill, Reyes now states that, "Any purchaser would, naturally, have to recoup this investment and would, necessarily, have to dramatically increase the rates charged to customers to recover the cost. …[M]aintaining this artificial floor will greatly harm ratepayers and the economy of the CNMI."

Also before the Senate for action is the bill that mandates CUC to allow its customers to pay their bills through CUC's official website. Previously passed by the House of Representatives, the legislation says this will bring convenience and efficiency to CUC's payment system.

"Making online payments for household bills is common and practical in today's environment and it would save CUC customer service expenses and save time for customers. Moreover, Internet payment service could allow third parties such as relatives to directly pay CUC customers' utility bills during times of economic difficulties," the bill states. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

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CPA Regular Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, October 24, 2008, 10:00 a.m.
Port of Saipan's Conference Room, Captain George F. Fleming Building

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (Sept. 12, 2008)

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

III. CORRESPONDENCES

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
1. Financial Affairs Committee
2. Airport Facilities Committee
3. Seaport Facilities Committee
4. Personnel Affairs Committee
5. Appeals (Ad Hoc) Committee

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

VI. OLD BUSINESS
1. Change & Update of Personnel Rules and Regulations
2. Change & Update of Procurement Rules and Regulations
3. Reorganization of departments and divisions
4. APEC Contract Renewal re: Incinerator

VII. NEW BUSINESS
5. Personnel Matter (Contract Renewal)
6. Appointment of Executive Director
7. Tinian Terminal Project Amendment No. 4
8. Rota Runway CM Selection
9. Design and CM Services for Tinian Instrument Landing System
10. Food and Beverage RFP at Rota International Airport
11. Request for break in Rental (Tandem Skydiving and As Pari's)
12. SIA Brown Tree Snake Barrier Change Order No. 1
13. SIA Runway Rehab. Taxiway Conversion Change Order No. 1
14. SIA Runway Rehab. CM Services Selection

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

X. ADJOURNMENT

JOSE R. LIFOIFOI **October 20, 2008**
Chairman, Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
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PUBLIC NOTICE
October 21, 2008

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority thru its Acting Chairman, hereby informs the general public that the CDA Board of Directors will hold its regular meeting on Thursday, October 23, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CDA Conference Room, Second Floor, Wakin's Building, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Saipan. The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS
1. Financial Report – CDA
2. Legal Counsel's Report

IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES
1. Development Corporation Division (DCD)
2. DBD/Public Finance Committee
3. Admin. Matters/Personnel & Budget
4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities

V. OLD BUSINESS
1. Pacific Gardenia Hotel – Update
2. Sunset Villa – Update
3. Reconsideration of Previous Board Action on Rota Property

VI. NEW BUSINESS
1. Election of Officers
2. Reorganization

VII. OTHER MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ **PEDRO I. ITIBUS**
Acting Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

PTI would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on October 21st, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before October 21st.

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Per an earlier announcement, PTI is no longer mailing out past due notices as of 11/01/06.

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PTI Your connection to the world

55 pct of NMC budget goes to admin, 15 pct IT

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As in the past, over half of the Northern Marianas College's operations budget for Fiscal Year 2009 will go to financial and administration services while 15 percent has been allocated to information technology. The rest are for other areas such as academic programs and student services, which accounts for 7 percent each, according to a summary report released by NMC yesterday.

Members of the NMC Board of Regents approved last week a total budget of $3,099,997 for FY 2009. This is 3.17 percent less compared to the current fiscal year budget of $3,201,542.

Some 55 percent or $1,701,784 of the new budget will be spent on financial and administration services, a decrease of $82,497 compared to the 2008 figure of $1,7884,281.

The biggest increase among the 13 departmental items in the budget will go to information technology, which accounts for 15 percent of the total budget. The new budget for this item is $454,555 while the current amount is at $152,474, a difference of $302,081.

The budget for student services increased from $189,126 in 2008 to $226,277 in 2009 while the amount for academic programs and services decreased from $665,937 to $226,992.

The other items in the budget that will see an increase are expenses for:

■ the Board of Regents (from $30,778 to $37,086);

■ Office of the President (from $124,886 to $149,365);

■ Institutional Advancement (from $23,379 to $31,205), ;

■ Institutional Effectiveness (from $3,103 to $52,618); and

■ Community Programs and Services (from $114,939 to $121,724).

The items that were slashed included the budget for NMC's Rota campus (from $64,400, $54,961), the Tinian campus (from $46,274 to 42,970), the Faculty Senate (from $1,065 to $150), and the Staff Senate (from $900 to $310).

In passing the resolution to approve the operations budget for FY 2008-2009 on Oct. 9, the board said it recognizes that the budget must be consistent with the mandates of local and federal laws, in addition to meeting the standards of accreditation set forth by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges–Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Commission members are set to arrive in the first week of November to evaluate the show-cause report that was approved by the board early this month.

The NMC board said yesterday it is now ready for this inspection.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
In this file photo, members of the Northern Marianas College's Board of Regents are shown having a meeting.

5,502

From Page 1

of about five months worth of collecting signatures on a petition in favor of the plan.

Since June, members of the Friends of the Monument—a community organization founded by local people backing the proposal—have pounded pavement day and night to collect the signatures. With White House staff now on Saipan to host a public forum on the issue Monday night, the group chose to release the final tally of its effort, 5,502 signatures.

Leaders of the group said the number exceeds their expectations and refutes claims by many of the plan's opponents that the proposal lacks support among the public.

"It was so easy to collect the signatures because at least nine out of 10 of the people here support it," said Ken Kramer, one member of the group. "It is overwhelming."

Among the signatures on the petition is that of Saipan's mayor, Juan Tudela.

Ignacio Cabrera, the group's chairman, said members plan to present the petition to White House staff during their visit on Saipan and that more signatures are on the way because the petition drive will continue.

"This is for my son, my son's kids, for the future," Cabrera said, adding that the proposal has found widespread support among young people in the CNMI, many of whom signed the petition.

"Young people are pretty smart," he said.

Cabrera also refuted claims that the Friends of the Monument are funded through the Pew Charitable Trust, the leading organization that is lobbying for the monument's creation.

"As a friend of the monument, I can say that Pew has not done anything to support us financially," he said, adding that the group is composed of volunteers. "I want to make that clear."

Opponents of the plan, meanwhile, have previously said they are also collecting signatures for a petition against it but could not be reached for comment on the issue at press time.

CNMI

From Page 1

Maug, Asuncion and Uracus, an effort to affirm the president's so-called "blue legacy" of marine conservation. Federal agencies are now conducting an assessment of the waters at issue —one of three sites now under federal review for the designation—to determine whether they are suitable for a monument.

Environmentalists have long held that the monument plan would safeguard a hotspot for biodiversity in the Pacific Ocean and bolster the CNMI's struggling tourism industry. However, opponents contend it would trample on the CNMI's autonomy and block access to the waters for fishing or undersea mining.

During the conference, Connaughton told lawmakers that the decision on which site the White House will select as a monument has yet to be made, but any plan to establish one in the CNMI would give local people access to the waters and to the islands.

As part of the "co-management" scheme the White House would seek to establish for the monument—one in which the local government and federal agencies would work together to control the region's natural resources—Connaughton added that the president could restore much of the CNMI's control over the "submerged lands" near its shores that it lost in a recent federal court case.

"All of the management decisions could be made with you," he told lawmakers, adding later that the plan could grant the CNMI access to mineral and energy resources in the region. "I think we could work our way through this."

Moreover, Connaughton assured the Legislature that any monument plan would ensure that the islands surrounded by the preserved waters remain under local authority.

"The land is your land," he said. "We've already decided that going into this."

Yet in the waters, he said, the monument could preserve a stunning example of aquatic life and geological activity unlike any other. It would also become a prime example for other nations to follow when it comes to protection ocean resources.

"In brief, this area has some of the greatest biodiversity on Earth," he said, noting that the nearby Marianas Trench is "right up there with the Grand Canyon" as one of the world's greatest natural wonders. Much of the plan, he added would depend on talks with local authorities.

"Nothing is in writing yet," he said. "We're not going to put anything in writing until we're done talking."

Connaughton's assurances, however, were met with a stern rebuke from some lawmakers, who suggested the monument would effectively take the three islands within its proposed boundaries away from the CNMI.

For example, Rep. David Apatang (I-Saipan) said the proposal is unnecessary given the environmental health of the waters around the northern islands and the plan would impose strict barriers preventing local people from traveling there. Apatang also pointed to a recently passed CNMI House resolution disapproving of the monument plan.

"We don't need another restriction like in American Memorial Park," said Apatang. "There's nothing wrong with the islands. They're clean."

Apatang also suggested that supporters of the monument plan are "just followers" without a genuine stake in the issue.

"You can always pack up and leave one of these days," he said to a crowd of people wearing pro-monument t-shirts sitting in the gallery, most of whom are volunteer activists. "I don't know how many of you are getting paid to do this."

But a few legislators voiced support for the White House's proposal. Rep. Tina Sablan (I-Saipan) said the plan should see further public debate and noted that federal officials have the authority under the law to establish the monument.

"I do think that there are resources up there that deserve protection," she said.

Others appeared opposed to the plan but willing to continue talks on the issue. Sen. Felix Mendiola (C-Rota), for one, said he would favor the monument "and with force" if access to submerged lands and ocean mineral deposits is guaranteed in the plan.

"The people of the NMI just want equity," he said. "They want to be heard."

Earlier in the day, White House officials also met with Gov. Benigno Fitial and his Cabinet on the proposal. In an interview, Charles Reyes, the governor's spokesman, said the Fitial administration still harbors concerns about the plan and remains opposed to it.

"I don't think we're going to change our position," he said. "We have reservations on this proposal. The economic benefits are unclear."

Federal officials held a public forum on the issue at the Fiesta Resort on Saipan Monday night. Meanwhile, the Rose Atoll and a site in American Samoa are also under review as potential locales for a marine monument. Many observers expect the Bush administration will issue a decision before the president leaves office in January 2009.

SENATE

From Page 1

to spend the $75 million proposed budget for the Executive Branch, the Senate-passed bill provides itemized appropriations for the agencies under the governor's wing.

"You could include language to prevent the governor from using any money on the lawsuit, but it wouldn't make any difference. We have a balanced budget; we laid out where every dollar should go," Pangelinan said in an interview yesterday.

She also noted that the governor filed the lawsuit before the previous fiscal year ended last month. "It is possible he already obligated money for that purpose from the FY2008 budget," she said.

Another major change in Senate-passed version is the inclusion of measures designed to cut the government's personnel costs. Under the bill, government offices will be closed every other Friday from March 6, 2009, through Sept. 18, 2009—a total of 10 "austerity Fridays." In addition, a no-work-no-pay policy will be applied on the 13 remaining legal holidays within FY2009.

The Senate budget reduces the cap for full time workers the government can employ. The governor's budget proposal called for 4,100 employees, and the Senate approved only 3,736. Pangelinan said the Senate's figure more accurately reflects the actual number of government employees.

The Upper House rejects the governor's plan to lay off nearly 400 workers. Instead, it proposes to freeze government hiring and use attrition as a means to gradually reduce the government payroll.

Under the Senate's version of the budget, the entire government will be required to contribute to the NMI Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan at a rate of 11 percent, much lower than the 37.4 percent recommended by the Fund's actuarial consultant. The Senate's budget allows the Fund to liquidate assets to cover the expected shortfall in pension payments.

Other highlights of the Senate-approved budget include:

■ Requiring the governor to submit for legislative appropriation any "cover-over" tax recoveries from the U.S. government;

■ Prohibiting lawsuits between local government entities;

■ Specifying appropriation for utility costs and protecting them from reprogramming to ensure the government can pay the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.;

■ Cutting the public auditor's fee from 1 percent to 0.75 percent of each agency's budget. The reduced amount is still enough to cover OPA's $2.5 million funding request;

■ Reserving $130,000 for any new positions filled between April 1—when the governor's budget was submitted—and Oct. 1, and not included in the governor's proposal and in the bill;

■ Calling for a cost-benefit benefit analysis and performance outcomes of government agencies and programs; and

■ Setting up reporting requirements to gather information on continuing obligation such as court judgments against the government and unpaid employee compensation.

The budget currently under deliberation is for the 2009 fiscal year, which covers the period from Oct. 1, 2008 to Sept. 30, 2009.

If the House approves the Senate-passed version, the bill will head to the governor for his signature and then become law. If the House rejects it, a joint committee of House and Senate members will be formed to draft a budget that is acceptable to both houses.

Reconciliation of CUC, PSS bill nearing closure

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Public School System are almost done with their reconciliation of records to determine how much PSS actually owes CUC in utility bills.

CUC executive director Antonio Muña told *Saipan Tribune* that the reconciliation process started a couple of weeks ago.

"I think we are very close to that right now. The reconciliation process is coming to a close," Muña said.

He said CUC provided PSS with their information to expedite the reconciliation with PSS records.

PSS, according to the executive director, also provided CUC with its information.

Muña said they should be able to determine anytime this week the actual amount PSS owes CUC.

Muña earlier stated that PSS owes CUC $1.8 million in overdue payments but PSS denied owing CUC anything. Records obtained by *Saipan Tribune* through an Open Government Act request indicated PSS owes CUC at least $1.2 million for fiscal year 2008, not including the month of September.

PSS acting finance director Lori Grizzard early this month stated that PSS and CUC are reconciling another $600,000 that PSS officials believe they have been overcharged.

Grizzard said the CNMI government will pay for the PSS' $414,000 October 2006 billing from CUC.

Muña said the reconciliation process was done because CUC and PSS are talking about different amounts.

He said since the two entities have different numbers with respect to what may be due them and what may be owed them, a direct reconciliation process is the way to confirm where the differences are or where the discrepancies are.

"And that's where we worked with PSS financial staff and our financial staff to resolve the issue," Muña added.

PARADE OF CULTURES
Students of the Grace Christian Academy parade with their cultural costumes at the opening of a weeklong Missions Convention yesterday morning.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman community meeting

The Department of Public Safety, NMI Crime Stoppers and Kagman Community Association would like to invite the residents of Kagman to a meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2008, at 6:30pm at the Kagman Community Center.

The NMI Crime Stoppers will be in attendance to inform community members about the Crime Stoppers program and how residents can help solve crimes in the CNMI. The Fire Division's Fire Prevention Section will also be present at the meeting to advise families and individuals on how they can protect themselves and their homes from home fires and how they can prepare a fire escape plan to further ensure their safety.

Attendees will be receiving free Crime Stoppers memorabilia.

For questions or concerns you may have, contact the Office of the Commissioner at 664-9022/23. ***(PR)***

VFW Post 3457 plans candlelight vigil for Manglona

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the CNMI, Post 3457 will lead the candlelight vigil along Airport Road for the arrival Thursday morning of the body of Staff Sgt. Julian Manglona.

His body will arrive at 1:20am and the Veterans of Foreign Wars will start the lineup at 12:15am. "We are asking the entire community to show up with their candles and support this event," the group said in a statement. ***(PR)***

GTC-PTA meeting tomorrow

The Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's PTA postponed its meeting last Wednesday due to inclement weather. The PTA meeting will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2008, at 6pm in the school cafeteria. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '78 reunion

The MHS Class of 1978 is having its 30th year Class Reunion at the Susupe Beach Park (pot-luck-style) on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2008, from 11am to 4pm. Classmates are welcome to bring their families. Should you have any questions, contact Viol Guerrero at 285-1268, Ben Sablan at 483-3277, or Liz Balajadia at 898-9535. ***(PR)***

FoA to present Neil Simon play

The Good Doctor, the latest production of the Friends of the Arts, will be performed at the American Memorial Park Auditorium on Friday, Oct. 24, Saturday, Oct. 25 at 7pm, with a matinee performance on Sunday, Oct. 26, 2008 at 3pm.

Tickets for all performances are $10 for FOA members, $12 for non-members of FOA and students with student ID are $5. Don't miss this wonderful Neil Simon play! ***(PR)***

Check out these great prices!
i415
Postpaid
FREE
with iKeep Plus $28.88 or higher plan
Prepaid only
$33
with $30 airtime value
i425
Postpaid only
$48.88
with iKEEP Plus $28.88 or higher plan
Prepaid only
$78.88
with $12.50 airtime value
i335
Postpaid only
$78.88
with iKEEP Plus $28.88 or higher plan
Prepaid only
$138.88
with $30 airtime value
i455
Postpaid only
$38.88
with iKEEP Plus $28.88 or higher plan
Prepaid only
$88.88
with $12.50 airtime value
iKeep Plus Includes:
Rollover Minutes
Unlimited Push-To-Talk
Unlimited Nights & Weekends
Nationwide Minutes
PREPAID: Enjoy 25% to 50% more value with iConnect's Prepaid Supercharge cards.
$10 card issupercharged to $12.50 & the $20 card is supercharged to $30.
Free prepaid load must be loaded into the new sim card upon purchase.
Prepaid Weekly Unlimited Cellular & Push-To-Talk Calls at $20 per week is available.
To activate Prepaid Weekly Unlimited,dial *53 and follow instruction.
POSTPAID: Requires ONLY 12 month contract. Conditions apply.
Saipan - Guam Office: 888-8888 I www.iconnectsaipan.com
iCONNECT
Pushing Saipan Forward
2nd Annual Tatu & Arts Festival
Oct. 23 – 26 . 2:00 pm – 9:00 pm . Hibiscus Hall – Fiesta Resort & Spa

Man nabbed for attempted murder of wife

2 men reportedly rescue victim who was strangled near Tinian police station

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two men reportedly saved the life of a woman who was allegedly strangled by her husband in a jungle area near the police station on Tinian early Saturday morning.

The suspect, Peter A. Villagomez, was arrested for attempted murder, assault, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Villagomez, 41, was set to appear for a bail hearing yesterday afternoon before Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman.

Police said the two witnesses, including an off-duty firefighter, saw Villagomez choking his wife on the side of the road and were able to stop him.

Detective Barbara K. Arend said it was the off-duty firefighter who called Tinian police Saturday to report that he had found Villagomez strangling a woman on the side of the road.

Arend said the off-duty firefighter stated that at 1:14am he and a companion were aboard a car and were passing the rear part of the courthouse when they saw someone lying on the side of the road.

The witness said they thought someone has been run over by a vehicle so he and his companion got down from the car and saw two persons lying on the ground. As they approached, the witnesses asked if the two were fine. No one responded.

The witnesses noticed that Villagomez was choking the victim and that her face "was swollen and looked disfigured."

When one of the witness tried to remove Villagomez's arm from the victim's neck, the defendant instead allegedly tightened his grip on her.

The defendant then kicked the firefighter's companion on the hips. After being hit, the witness pinned Villagomez to the ground and removed Villagomez's arm from the victim's neck.

The witness said the woman was not breathing normally and was gasping for air.

Later that day, the victim told police she was walking to her sister's house when her husband followed her. When she reached the jungle area across the back of the police station, Villagomez came from behind and allegedly choked her and said he would kill her.

Villagomez dragged her into the jungle area. When the victim almost lost consciousness, he released her a little bit. This enabled her to free herself and she ran to the shoulder of the road. He, however, chased her and choked her again.

The victim said she saw a car coming so she took her sunglasses and threw it at the vehicle to get attention. She then fell unconscious.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Kanemoto Mitsuhiro of Japan speaks how he was able to beat the odds before crowning himself champion in the Baccarat Challenge during the awarding ceremony on Sunday night at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino. Joining him are Tournament Director Tony Jackson, left, and two casino staff.

Baccarat Challenge champ takes home $80K

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Veteran competitor Kanemoto Mitsuhiro of Japan pocketed the top purse of $80,000 after a dramatic ending in the Baccarat Challenge held Sunday night at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Kanemoto, a regular fixture in the Challenge, finally hit it big via the hard way and made it for the first time onto the winner's podium.

"I had the least chips and the only way I could win was to bet a tie and it was indeed a tie. So this is it," Kanemoto exclaimed during the awarding ceremony that concluded the two-day tournament.

Mr. Kim from Korea settled for second and went home $30,000 richer.

The event drew a total of 130 participants, including a big field of women players who made their mark in this particular tournament—the fifth and final Baccarat Challenge this year at the sprawling hotel and casino.

Four of the female competitors made it to the Final Table of 10 players, including third place finisherm Ms. Park of Korea, who took away $15,000 and fourth placer Miyazaki Mina of Japan, who won $8,000.

The rest of the top 10 picked up $1,000 each.

Earlier in the semifinals, two of the female players missed their chance for a possible crack at the title due to personal reasons.

Kiri Jackson, Tinian Dynasty's Casino Marketing and Promotions Coordinator, said one of them took a trip back to Japan while another failed to arrive on time at the playing venue after a stroll to a nearby beach.

Jackson said it was a fantastic Baccarat Challenge in 2008, since in the past they only had two or three tournaments a year.

She also said the big number of female players and how they aggressively competed against the male players made it more exciting.

Each player paid an entry fee of $1,000 that already includes three-night accommodation, airfare reimbursement, transfers between Saipan and Tinian, meals, tournament beverages, and gift items.

The preliminary heats on Saturday started with five tables with 10 persons each on three heats. Each player received 5,000 starting chips, where 30 hands are dealt for each heat.

At the completion of 30 hands, the three persons with the most chips on the table qualify for the semifinals, resulting in a total of 42 semifinalists.

At the completion of the third heat, the unsuccessful participants were eligible for the wildcard draw where three names were randomly selected from a barrel and added to the semifinalists.

In the 45-person semifinals, each player received 5,000 chips except for the wildcard qualifiers, who had 2,500.

At the completion of 30 hands, the two persons with the most chips at each table qualify for the final 10.

In the final table, each player received 10,000 starting chips and 40 hands were dealt.

Kanemoto came from behind to win the coveted title.

Tournament Director Tony Jackson said the 2009 schedule for the Baccarat Challenge would be released next month.

In the meantime, the final Blackjack Championships for 2008 is set Dec. 13-14.

"We have a pretty much exiting Challenge. It was a great finish," he said.

List of polling places for Nov. polls released

The Commission on Election has identified 18 polling precincts for the upcoming Nov. 4 election, where nearly 13,000 eligible voters would cast their votes for first ever CNMI delegate to Congress.

As of Sept. 22, 2008, there are already 12,947 registered voters for the 14 villages in the Commonwealth.

For Saipan voters, the polling places for the November elections are the San Antonio Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, Municipal Council office, Oleai Elementary School, Garapan Elementary School, Tanapag Youth Center, San Roque Elementary cafeteria, Northern Islands, Kagman Community Center, and the Legislature Building on Capital Hill.

For Tinian residents, voters are urged to cast their votes at the Tinian Youth Center; Rota voters can go to the Northern Marianas College campus.

ELECTION PRECINCTS	
1-A	San Antonio Elementary School
1-B-1	San Vicente Elementary School
1-B-2	San Vicente Elementary School
1-B-3	San Vicente Elementary School
1-C	Koblerville Elementary School cafeteria
2	Municipal Council Office
3-A	Oleai Elementary School cafeteria
3-B-1	Garapan Elementary School
3-B-2	Garapan Elementary School
3-B-3	Garapan Elementary School
4-A	Tanapag Youth Center
4-B	San Roque Elementary Cafeteria
4-C	Capital Hill Legislature
4-D	Northern Islands
1-1	Kagman Community Center
1-2	Kagman Community Center
2	Tinian Youth Center
3	Rota NMC Campus

Based on the CNMI Voter Registration Statistics, San Antonio has 679 registered voters; San Vicente has 1,960; Koblerville has 890, District 1 has a total of 3,529 eligible voters.

District 2, which is composed of Chalan Kanoa and Susupe villages, has 1,008 voters, while District 3, which is composed of Oleia and Garapan, has a total of 2,700 voters, broken down as 710 and 1,990 respectively.

District 4 has a total of 1,412 registered voters broken down as 547 voters for Tanapag, 448 for San Roque, 348 for the Capital Hill area, and 69 for the Northern Islands.

Kagman, which comprises District 5, has a total of 1,797 eligible voters. Tinian has 1,136 voters, while Rota has 1,365 eligible voters.

For additional information, contact the election commission at 664-VOTE. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Coral reef presentation at Kagman Center

Two experts on coral reef analysis and management strategies will visit Kagman this week to update residents on current environmental issues facing the CNMI.

Division of Environmental Quality's marine biologist Peter Houk will conduct a "State of the Reef" presentation at the Kagman Community Center on Thursday, Oct. 23.

The coral reef presentation will start at 6pm that includes a review of water quality data, trends, and practices that impact the reefs of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Kathleen Herrmann, coral reef watershed/outreach specialist, will also present watershed issues.

DEQ is encouraging every community member in Kagman to attend the presentation. ***(PR)***

CLEARING OPERATION
A resident of As Lito Road cleans up a drainage line to ensure the smooth flow of water during last week's torrential rain that flooded many portions of Saipan. The heavy road resulted in overflowing drainages and large rocks and debris flowing into major highways.
IAN SALES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Happy birthday to Chrizelle Omotoy, who is celebrating her 9th birthday today, Oct. 21. "May you have fun on your special day, with best wishes for more birthdays to come." Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy and Kuya Haries.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

New autopsy being planned for Miura

LOS ANGELES (Kyodo)—The body of businessman Kazuyoshi Miura, who committed suicide in a jail cell while awaiting a trial over the 1981 fatal shooting of his wife in Los Angeles, was transferred to his defense team Saturday, the local medical examiner's office said.

Miura

The defense team plans to conduct its own postmortem on Miura, a source familiar with the case said. His body is expected to be returned to Japan after that.

The Los Angeles County medical examiner's office conducted an autopsy on Miura on Oct. 12.

Miura, 61, was found hanged in his cell Oct. 10, just hours after he arrived in Los Angeles from Saipan to face trial, according to the Los Angels Police Department.

He was being held on a murder conspiracy charge over the killing of his wife, Kazumi, who was shot in November 1981 while traveling with him in Los Angels. She died about a year later due to the injury.

Miura was arrested on Saipan, a U.S. territory, in February in connection with the murder case.

Marpi area closed Friday for detonation

The Marpi area will be closed off to the public—especially tour and dive operators, farmers, joggers and bikers—this Friday, Oct. 24, from 12pm to 2pm for a detonation operation.

The detonation exercise will be jointly conducted by the Department of Public Safety, the Emergency Management Office, and the U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment Marianas.

The general location of activity will be at the Laderan Laggun Cliff Line (a mile north of the Marpi landfill). The grid coordinates is 15 degrees, 16.11 minutes 0.0865 seconds north and 145 degrees, 49 minutes 0.3313 seconds east and 5,000 feet above sea level.

The only area that will not be closed off will be Suicide Cliff, which will be the main viewing point for the detonation.

Public access to Suicide Cliff is allowed only through the road leading up to the Far East Broadcasting antenna for viewing purposes.

DPS will set security posts to enforce and control traffic movement for safety purposes.

For more information, call DPS at 664-9001/2 or EMO at 322-8001/2. ***(EMO)***

JOETEN FOUNDATION DONATES TO RED CROSS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Joeten Foundation is again a major donor to this year's annual Red Cross fundraising dinner with a donation of $5,000 dollars. "For more than 20 years, the Joeten family has supported the efforts of the NMI Red Cross," said Juan Lizama, Red Cross board member and Club 200 co-chair. "We are grateful to have such a generous company helping those in need." The Joeten group of companies was founded on the long-term vision of the late Jose Camacho Tenorio (Joeten). While incorporating his strategic philosophy of diversification, the Joeten companies are committed to harness and maximize the existence of the local tourism industry and the demands of local consumers through a variety of companies in order to secure the future for the next generation. Joeten's deep and unselfish personal philosophy to give back is the driving force for his active role in this community. Joeten is a founding member of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, promotes the preservation of local traditions, the Joeten Charitable Foundations, Joeten-Daidai Social Hall, local entertainment/sports sponsorships, postsecondary scholarships, and other local events ongoing throughout the year.

Jury trial begins in theft case at AMP

The jury trial began yesterday in the case against one of three men accused of conspiring to steal portions of metal lighting units from the American Memorial Park.

The trial of Masaioshy Daikichi Sallem at the U.S. District Court for the NMI began shortly after the federal court was able to impanel the jurors.

Attorney Steven Pixley is representing Sallem. Assistant U.S. Attorney Beverly McCallum is representing the U.S. government.

Of three defendants, only Sallem decided to proceed with the trial.

Sallem, Dominic Chipwelong, and James Ochcha, all Chuukese, were indicted with conspiracy to sell government property and theft of government property.

In addition, Ochcha was charged with destruction of a veteran's memorial.

The three were accused of engaging in a conspiracy to steal portions of the metal lighting units from AMP and selling them to a recycling center in November 2007.

Chipwelong and Ochcha entered a guilty plea. Chipwelong was sentenced to 10 months in jail. Ochcha's sentencing was set for Oct. 27, 2008.

Sallem has maintained his innocence of the charges. ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***

Assistance to immediate relatives of US citizens

U.S. Public Law 110–229, the so-called "federalization law," will take effect June 1, 2009. At the moment, it does not have any provision for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens.

"Time is ticking fast. Families who are in this situation are urged to apply for the conversion of their status immediately to avoid status problems when the law takes effect next year," said Irene Tantiado, president of the United Workers Movement, NMI.

In line with this, the group is now assessing how they can assist affected families. The group has been working with a topnotch immigration law office for possible assistance. An informal survey by the group indicated that the hindrances for application are (a) not meeting the sufficiency of income and/or financial resources and (b) the application and lawyer's fee.

UWM is currently conducting another survey. This time around, the survey is aimed at finding out how many families are affected and would be interested to process their conversion of status. If you want to join the survey and avail of staggered payment plan for the lawyer's fee, contact the group by sending an e-mail to Tantiado at irenebdi@yahoo.com or call 322 8897 and leave a message.

The group is also facilitating free online consultation with immigration lawyers so people can get useful information as they prepare for the application.

UWM said it is not collecting any fee for this service. ***(PR)***

'NO TO MARINE MONUMENT' STEFAN SEBASTIAN

Opponents of the White House's proposal to establish a national marine monument in the CNMI's northern waters Sunday held a protest on the road leading to Saipan International Airport, where federal officials were scheduled to arrive ahead of a public forum on the issue Monday at the Fiesta Resort.

Sedation's role in children's dentistry

Mika Lopez, left, and Danielle Hernandez love visiting their dentist and dental hygienist at the Seventh-day Adventist Clinic. They are the winners of the First SDA Dental Art Contest! They each won two PIC Waterpark passes donated by PIC.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By CRYSTAL A. EDMISTER D.D.S.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Children's dentistry has made leaps and bounds in the last two decades. Although some adults may have unpleasant childhood memories from a visit to the dentist, it doesn't have to be that way anymore! In the 21st century, modern dentistry has helped to make a child's visit to the dentist fun and enjoyable.

Antianxiety agents, or sedatives, can help patients relax as well as ease one's dental fears. There are three types of sedation used in children's dentistry today to aid in easily and safely treating dental infections and disease. The first and deepest form of sedation is general anesthesia. The second, mid-level form of sedation is conscious sedation. The last form is nitrous oxide, also know as laughing gas.

1.) Let's begin with how general anesthesia can help make a child's visit to the dentist easy. General Anesthesia means to place a person in a controlled unconscious state using medications that are administered either intravenously or through the lungs as inhaled gases. During the time the patient is anesthetized or sleeping, monitors are connected to record the patient's vital signs, an intravenous line is established to administer medications, and an airway is placed through the nose to ensure adequate oxygen supply.

Benefits of general anesthesia are being able to treat patients who are very young, very afraid, or who have certain physical or medical conditions more safely than using local anesthetic alone (also known as novocaine). Helping patients fall asleep with the use of general anesthesia, relieves any anxiety or fear a patient may have. Patients will not remember anything about the treatment which will help alleviate long lasting dental fears, phobias, and emotional scars. All dental treatment is completed during this one visit.

2.) The second type of sedation is *Conscious Oral Sedation* which is described as a minimally depressed level of consciousness during which the patient is able to breathe independently and/or respond to verbal commands. Conscious oral sedation is given as an oral pre-medication liquid and is a means of sedation that lowers the anxiety level of patients who are extremely apprehensive or afraid. It is not a general anesthetic and does not put the patient to sleep; however, it often makes the patient so relaxed that they do sleep, sometimes even during the dental treatment. Conscious oral sedation is useful for patients who are inexperienced, afraid, or require a lot of dental work. Another benefit of utilizing oral sedation is that all dental treatment can usually be completed in one visit to the dentist. Conscious oral sedation of children for dental procedures is both common and, in many cases, necessary to provide appropriate dental treatment. Apprehensive children, very young children, and children with special needs would not be able to receive the necessary dental care in a safe and comfortable manner, in many instances, without this procedure.

Conscious oral sedation is given as a liquid that the patient must drink 1 hour prior to dental treatment. During this time they gradually become more sleepy and relaxed. This medication does not take the place of local anesthetic. Local anesthesia must still be given; however, the good news is that it can usually be given without the patient feeling too much discomfort. It must be recognized that patients will experience the usual numb feeling for 3-4 hours after their appointment. When looking into the use of any type of sedation, the patient should disclose information about any illnesses, allergies, other health conditions or concerns. In addition, any medications that a child is taking should be discussed with the doctor.

A wide range of sedative agents are both safe and effective for children in the dental setting when used appropriately by individuals who are trained in their use, who utilize patient monitoring equipment, and who have established emergency procedures in place to react to the rare occurrence of unexpected responses. Conscious oral sedation is successful in about 85% of the children treated. It works best in children five years old and older. It is usually not effective in patients under the age of four years and sometimes even older patients who are so afraid or nervous that they cannot relax.

3.) The final type of sedation for children is Nitrous Oxide, commonly known as laughing gas. The alternative to general anesthesia or oral sedation would be to use a local anesthetic, commonly know as Novocaine, along with the use of nitrous oxide. This would require dental treatment to be completed in multiple short dental appointments. Nitrous oxide is used with patients of all ages and few side effects are associated with its use. Nitrous oxide is mixed with oxygen and inhaled through a small mask that the patient wears on their nose. Its effects wear off soon after the mask is removed. Nitrous oxide helps to take the edge off of patient's dental phobias and helps to make the patient feel very relaxed. Remember, if dental treatment (fillings, crowns, etc.) is not completed children are at risk of getting larger cavities and oral infections.

Dentistry has an excellent safety record. Dentists are committed to advancing the safety of all dental procedures and reducing risk, although no one can completely eliminate all risk associated with health care procedures. By utilizing conscious oral sedation, the doctor may expertly treat all of a child's dental needs safely without the pain, discomfort, or sounds that are normally associated with dental treatment. Some patients may feel nervous or anxious about their dental visit. But one can rest comfortably knowing that their dentist wants to make sure their visit is as free from discomfort and anxiety as possible!

■ ■ ■

The Seventh-day Adventist Clinic is offering FREE DENTAL EXAMS to all new patients. Children & adults are welcome! Call to schedule your FREE exam at #234-6323. Take charge of your dental and overall health!

Dr. Crystal A. Edmister is a dentist at the Seventh-day Adventist Dental Clinic.

Red flag up at two Rota beaches

The Division of Environment Quality has raised the red flag on Kokomo Beach Club and West Harbor Marina and is advising the public not fish or swim 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with the public health concerns.

DEQ analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 12 locations on Rota last week. DEQ welcomes all inquires as to quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 21, 1999

NMI, OIA agree to set aside differences

After years of estrangement, U.S. Office of Insular Affairs and the CNMI agreed yesterday to set aside differences in a bid to foster mutual cooperation on issues confronting the island, including federal assistance and economic development. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio warmly received OIA Director Danny Aranza during their meeting at the start of his first official visit to the Northern Marianas since assuming the post months ago. The discussion, according to Tenorio, focused on mutual concerns, such as Y2K assistance from the federal government, capital improvement projects and Covenant 702 funding.

DEQ assures clean up of Tanapag

Division of Environmental Quality Director Ike Cabrera yesterday assured that the cleanup in Tanapag Village to be conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to remove PCB contamination will be made following strict federal standards. DEQ is meeting with representatives of various federal agencies, including health and toxicology experts, to discuss the problem first discovered in the CNMI 11 years ago. According to Norman Lovelace, manager for Pacific Insular Area Program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, his office will continue to support DEQ in ensuring that the community's needs and concerns on this issue are properly addressed.

October 21, 2002

MPLA demands its $8M back from BoS

With the presiding judge's approval of payments amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars in the Bank of Saipan receivership case, the Marianas Public Lands Authority-one of the bank's major depositors of over $8 million-demanded for the release of its money. The MPLA, through lawyer Alan L. Lane, said assets that were used to collateralize the government agency's deposits should not be disposed to other parties. It asserted it should be prioritized for payment in the liquidation of bank assets, even against the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund.

Govt has $2.7M collectibles

The House leadership is pressing to step up tax collection in the wake of reports that the government has about $2.7 million in excise tax receivables overdue from local businesses. The focus on tax collection comes days after the Legislature resolved to speed up action on revenue-generating initiatives that leaders hope will turn the depressed local economy around. On top of the 21 pending initiatives that the lower House originally cranked up to increase government revenues, acting House Speaker Manuel A. Tenorio said the leadership is also turning its focus on the collection of receivables, particularly on excise taxes.

October 21, 2003

Mendiola joins Manglona's bloc

New Tinian senator Joseph M. Mendiola poses with his wife, Carlyn, and other family members following his oath-taking yesterday at the Tinian courthouse.(Contributed Photo) TINIAN-In a simple cere-mony beset by bad weather, former senator Jose M. Dela Cruz's replacement, Sen. Joseph M. Mendiola, was sworn into office yesterday morning at the Tinian courthouse in the presence of only three senators-Paul A. Manglona, Joaquin G. Adriano and Diego M. Songao. Conspicuously absent were senators Pete P. Reyes, Ramon S. Guerrero, Thomas P. Villagomez and David M. Cing. Reyes' camp has not made it a secret that they would not be attending the ceremony that was organized by Manglona's group, citing, among others, what they view as disregard for Senate tradition or the absence of a credentials committee that was supposed to review Mendiola's qualifications as a Senate member before being sworn in.

DEQ: Saipan water has high chloride content

The Division of Environmental Quality's Safe Drinking Water chief disclosed that the water supply on the island contains high chloride content-a factor that he said should be looked into in relation to the increasing incidence of diabetes on the islands. Drinking water in some areas on the island have chloride content of 1000 mg/l or more-far above the 250 mg/l limit set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, according to Joe Kaipat, the DEQ's Safe Drinking Water Branch manager. Kaipat said medical experts should look into the possibility that high chloride intake could be a factor in the high rate of diabetes in the CNMI.

Pacific

Adoption scandal hurts Samoa families

Seven people indicted for fraud

APIA, Samoa (Samoa Observer/PIR)—Each November, a family in Faleas'iu remembers the birthday of little Posi Iva, the six-year-old boy taken from them, and sold to an unwitting American family.

They are not alone in their grief.

At least 37 children from Samoa have allegedly been sold to Americans in an adoption scam that has led to heartache in both countries.

"We really want to see Posi, I miss my grandson," says 71-year-old Fatu Fuiono, who looks after his grandchildren while their parents work on their farm.

Looking at the sparse surroundings I can't imagine Posi's birthday is celebrated lavishly.

Posi is just one child taken from poor Samoan families and legally adopted by families in the US, who paid up to US$13,000 (T$32,500) to the now-defunct Focus on Children agency.

Couples who took more than two children were given a group discount, and paid only US$10,000 (T$25,000) for each child.

Children from newborns to teenagers were caught up in the alleged scam.

Authorities in the US have indicted seven people associated with Focus on Children on fraud charges connected to 37 of the adoptions between March 2002 and June 2005.

The accused could face up to 80 years' prison, and fines of up to $US2.25 million ($NZ3.7 million) if found guilty.

They are also facing charges including alien smuggling, visa fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering.

But the harshest penalties in the world aren't going to bring Posi back to his biological family.

He has been legally adopted according to both Samoan and US laws, and the family will have to wage a custody battle in the United States if they want their boy back, and they don't have the funds.

People associated with the adoption scandal stand accused of lying to the struggling Samoan families, telling them their children would return home and would send them gifts once they reached the US.

There was a flurry of interest in the case last year when the US Attorney's Office took action, but nothing since, and Fuiono believes people have forgotten about Posi.

Dan Wakefield was like a friend who came here every week," Fuiono says.

"He came with a sack of rice, noodles. That is why I loved him. If I saw him now I would ask him why he lied to us."

Wakefield was the local head of Focus on Children, and one of those facing criminal action in the US.

Since Posi left, his family has tried to make contact, but a letter sent last year went unanswered.

All they have is some information and photos sent to them by the adopted family in Utah, who have changed Posi's name to Michael Ulisese McKrola.

The story of Posi, and dozens like him, stretches back to 2002 when Focus on Children set up operations in Samoa.

The agency went to market places and befriended the families, giving them gifts of rice and taro, before slowly broaching the subject of adoptions.

At the heart of the issue is the term "adoption" and what it means in Samoa.

The country has a form of customary adoption where poor families leave children with friends or relatives until their circumstances improve, or the children become adults.

This type of adoption helps struggling families, because while children can be a financial burden, adults provide a vital role in helping share the workload.

Fuiono says although his family is poor their children are well looked after and they would never have let Posi leave if they'd known he was going forever.

No-one involved with the Samoan scandal believes the parents in the USA are anything other than innocent victims either.

"We have victims on all sides of the adoption transaction," US Attorney Brett Tolman said last year.

"It threatens the integrity of the adoption system and immigration system. You cannot mislead, take children and sell them."

TEAM EXOTIC SUPPORTS RED CROSS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For many years the members of local CNMI car club Team Exotic have supported the Red Cross. "This Club is amazing," said John Hirsh executive director the NMI Chapter. "Team Exotic has recognized the importance of the Red Cross for many years and has dedicated funds from its membership to support our efforts locally." In picture are club members Raynard Aranda, Ike Demapan, Manny Ada, Vinnie Sablan, Joey Pangelinan, Jordan Mendiola, Karl Reyes, James Fleming, Lenmark Diaz and Allen Cabrera. Not shown: Jonathan Leon Guerrero, AG Palacios, Jeff Villagomez, Kurt Sablan, Roland Cruz, Phil Roberto, Rob Travilla, Mike Javier and Chris Sablan.

'Global financial crisis to hurt islands'

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—The global financial crisis will have an impact on Pacific tourism, says newly-elected head of the Forum Secretariat Tuiloma Neroni Slade.

Slade said forum experts were making an assessment of how this would impact the Pacific.

He added that smaller countries would be hit hardest and says the Forum has yet to gauge how islands countries will be affected by the global financial crisis.

According to Slade, the current economic recession will most surely affect fuel prices and inherently have an impact on tourism.

Slade added that the World Bank and the IMF were already undertaking steps to help curb the problem and the region needed a diagnostic approach.

"We need to assess the impacts at global level and ways to safeguard the Pacific," he said.

Meanwhile, US President George W Bush and French counterpart Nicolas Sarkozy and the European Commission president are meeting to discuss the global financial crisis.

Arrest warrant out for A. Samoa official

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (Samoa News/PIR)—A warrant has been issued by the American Samoa High Court for the arrest of Department of Health director Utoofili Asofaafetai Maga, who failed to appear in court yesterday by order of Chief Justice F. Michael Kruse.

Utoofili is expected to return to the island Sunday, Oct. 26.

The Chief Justice says the warrant is to be executed Oct. 26 and there is no bail.

Utoofili was to appear yesterday at the High Court as the CJ wanted to hear from the director about the services available for mental health patients in American Samoa. Kruse said it is an important issue and wanted to know why Utoofili did not ask the court for permission to travel off-island when the director knew he had to appear in court yesterday.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

7.1 quake shakes Tonga homes

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—A strong undersea earthquake was felt in Tonga, this evening at 6:10pm local time, with a tremor shaking houses in the capital for nearly two minutes. The USGS recorded a 7.1 preliminary magnitude quake that was centred 195 kilometers (121 miles) east, southeast from Nuku'alofa at a depth of 33km (20.5 miles). No damage has been reported at this time. The Pacific Tsunami warning centre NOAA advised local governments that no destructive widespread tsunami threat exists based on historical earthquake and tsunami data. The quake was centred 355 km from Neiafu and 195km from Nuku'alofa.

Humpback whale upside down off Rarotonga

RAROTONGA, Cook Islands (Cook Islands News/PIR)—If you see this strange sight of a whale tail sticking out of the sea, don't panic. While the sight maybe a bit odd, local whale researcher Nan Hauser says she is very sure the whale is not stuck in the reef or entangled in a net. The female whale was seen with her tail out of water for long periods of time out from the Tamarind Restaurant last week. Due to her odd behaviour, she was named Moondance. Hauser says that she had been traveling along the reef between the fishing club and Muri beach. "She has a very strange behavior of holding her tail fluke up out of the water for 15 to 20 minutes at a time," says Hauser. "She then turns right side up, takes a few breaths, plays with her calf born this year and then returns to her inverted position." "I have gotten a lot of phone calls about her from concerned locals and tourists."

Thousands at funeral of beloved Bikini mayor

MAJURO, Marshall Islands (Yokwe/PIR)—Biknian Mayor Kataejar Jibas was laid to rest on the evening of Oct. 15, 2008, near his house in Rita Village, Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands. An estimated several thousand attended the service. Speaking on behalf of local government, national government and traditional leaders were Bikinian Senator Tomaki Juda, Iroijlaplap and Minister to the President Christopher Loeak, and Iroijlaplap and Senator Michael Kabua. Mayor Jibas, a long time employee of the Kili/Bikini/Ejit Local Government Council, died at 3:30pm Thursday afternoon, Oct. 2, 2008, in the Philippines following an automobile accident that occurred on Sept. 17 in Majuro, Marshall Islands. He was 55 years old. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, nine children and many grandchildren.

Vote of 'no confidence' brought in Marshalls

MAJURO, Marshall Islands (Yokwe/PIR)—Opposition members in the Republic of the Marshall Islands have brought the motion for a vote of no confidence against President Litokwa Tomeing during the afternoon session of the Nitijela, on Oct. 15. It was only in January of this year, President Tomeing was elected the President from a coalition movement within the Parliament. Members of former United Democratic Party, which was in power from 2000 to 2007, say they have enough votes. It is reported that John Silk, Ebon Senator and a former minister of the previous administration, is said to be seeking the Presidency if the vote of no confidence succeeds. There would be a five-day wait for the vote. More information is expected later today out of the nation's capital atoll of Majuro.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Fight the recession or fight global warming? Congress can do both

There are two powerful and opposing economic forces buffeting the American people that could undermine efforts to address global warming. Oil prices are the lowest they've been since June 2007. This good news at the pump may spell trouble for the environment if drivers return to the roads and reverse months of stunning reductions in gas consumption. Meanwhile, the looming recession will lessen the political will in Washington to pursue policies that would add costs to doing business or take money out of the thin wallets of consumers.

Sens. Barack Obama, D-Ill., and John McCain, R-Ariz., have committed to putting a price on carbon-burning fuels such as oil and coal through a cap-and-trade system of declining emissions allowances that would be auctioned off to polluters. We agree with Mr. Obama's plan to auction 100 percent of the allowances to reach the goal of an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels by 2050. But how to accomplish this without exacerbating the recession? No problem. Return to the American people every penny of the trillions of dollars expected to be generated by these sales.

This is not a radical notion. In Canada, British Columbia already does what we are proposing. An economy-wide carbon tax was imposed in the province in July. The $1.85 billion in Canadian dollars that it is expected to generate over the next three years will go back to the population in the form of reduced tax rates for all residents, corporations and small businesses. A climate action credit will be distributed to the poor to help with rising energy costs.

While the climate change bill passed by the Senate this year and the "discussion draft" released by Reps. John D. Dingell, D-Mich., and Rick Boucher, D-Va., this month provide relief for low-income families, the measures split most of the potential proceeds among various funds intended to spark innovation and spur development of alternative energy that will one day lessen the dependence on fossil fuels. Even in the best of times, we would worry that this gets government into the business of picking winners (and succumbing to legions of special pleaders) when it should get out of the way and let price trigger the technological efficiencies that business will assuredly develop and invest in to meet or exceed the carbon caps. Giving the money directly to the American people has the virtue of being transparent.

At a time of impending fiscal constraints, the temptation to pull back from pressing environmental goals is high. But taking on climate change and facing down the recession is not an either-or proposition. With global warming happening more quickly than scientists predicted, Earth can't wait.

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Letter to the Editor

DFW arguments for marine monument

DFW had all the great arguments for establishing a marine monument on their web page concerning the benefits of marine protected areas: http://www.dfw.gov.mp/protected/fishmgmt.htm.

Unfortunately, this URL link is no longer available on the DFW website. It seems it mysteriously disappeared a couple of weeks ago for some reason; therefore, we would like to assist them by providing it here.

Marine protected areas as effective fishery management tools

The marine protected area system is an integral part of the CNMI's coastal zone management program. Our marine sanctuaries, reserves, and conservation areas provide a tool to manage human activities and sustain multiple fishery species using an ecosystem-based management approach. Managing fisheries on a species-by-species basis can be very difficult. Therefore managing them as a whole through managing the ecosystem is the most efficient and cost-effective method. Furthermore, no take zones are much simpler to monitor and enforce than conventional fishing regulations such as gear and harvest restrictions. This is particularly true in the CNMI where such a large area of the sea and reef requires surveillance.

No-take zones where fishing is prohibited can enhance fishing in surrounding areas in a number of ways. First, fish are more abundant in the no take zones and grow to a larger size, since fishermen don't remove them. By protecting reef fish stock within marine sanctuaries, fish live longer and grow larger. Generally, bigger fish produce more eggs and offspring than smaller fish and the greater number of fish in the sanctuary will produce more offspring overall. These larvae are not strong enough to swim faster than ocean currents so many of them may be carried out of the no take zone. As the larvae develop into adults, they help replenish the surrounding fishing grounds and can be captured by fishermen.

Second, inside no take zones the density of fish can increase to the point where things become too crowded. Fish compete more intensively for food and suitable habitat. As a result, some adults and juveniles will "spillover" into adjoining areas and become available for capture and harvest.

On many of our coral reefs, high fishing pressure has changed the natural community structure, damaged habitats and removed some of the large target species such as groupers. By prohibiting fishing and destructive practices in marine protected areas, important habitat and fish stocks can restore themselves and the ecosystem can return to its natural functioning state.

Third, fishery management is bedeviled by uncertainty. In order to determine harvest levels that do not result in over-fishing, fishery managers need to accurately estimate the population size of the fish being caught and some of their biological characteristics, such as how fast they grow. Getting this information is difficult because the fish are hidden underwater and may swim long distances. In addition, population size can fluctuate widely due to environmental conditions such as typhoons, ocean warming, and volcanoes. At the least, no take zone sanctuaries provide an "insurance policy" to mitigate these uncertainties.

Studies in Guam, Fiji and throughout the Pacific have shown that the weight of fish per unit area was far greater in marine protected areas than at other sites. Fish were more abundant, and there were more species present than in fished areas. Other studies have shown that populations of lobster, conch and shellfish within protected areas increased significantly, demonstrating that these areas had recovered from over-fishing. In Fiji, no take zone sanctuaries have increased fish catch for villagers dependent on fisheries for food, and in Florida recreational fishing has improved dramatically with the inception of their marine sanctuaries program.

Fourth, marine protected areas can protect vulnerable species and habitat critical to their survival. These organisms may naturally exist in low numbers or have become endangered as a result of man's activities. Others may be relatively abundant but their biological characteristics-slow growth or low fecundity (few offspring)-make them especially susceptible to over-harvest. Sea Turtles for example, take over a decade to grow and mature to a point where they lay eggs. Then, they only lay their eggs at the beaches where they were born. By that time, the beach may have eroded or been replaced by man with housing or commercial establishments, or predators may eat the turtle or its eggs before they have a chance to replenish the population. In some instances a fully developed network of sanctuaries and conservation areas could replace other management measures. For example, if a significant proportion of a population were protected in no take zones, there might be less need to set harvest limits and restrictions, which can be hard to accurately determine and expensive to enforce.

Fifth, removing species directly, whether due to fishing, habitat damage or pollution, affects biodiversity (species richness) in an area. A species doesn't have to go extinct for biodiversity to be diminished in any given area. If an organism's home range is reduced, ecosystems in those places where it no longer occurs are less diverse and less diverse ecosystems are often less productive. Removing species can also have indirect effects. For example, if a predator disappears its prey can proliferate, displacing other species. Alternatively, if one of two competing species is removed, the

See DFW on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A referendum on race

By FRANK HARRIS III
Special to The Hartford Courant

Harris is chairman of the journalism department at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven.

It didn't start out this way. When the campaign season began, race was a faint shadow beneath calm waters. But as Election Day has neared, a dorsal fin has appeared.

It has broken the surface.

It is circling, revealing itself in all its ferocity.

I have concluded that regardless of who wins the presidential election, Sen. Barack Obama or Sen. John McCain, the result will be a referendum, a benchmark on race.

My conclusion came before McCain and Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin all but called Democratic presidential nominee Obama a terrorist.

It came before some supporters at McCain rallies came to resemble screaming lynch mobs driven by fear, hate and controlled ignorance about "who Barack Obama is."

It came before an older white woman referred to him as an Arab, before a white family man said he feared an Obama presidency and before whatever latest splash in the ever-changing political sea.

My conclusion came as I was driving to work in New Haven, Conn., one morning and listening to NPR's Morning Edition report on Obama supporters seeking votes in places where Democratic presidential candidates rarely go.

The place was the Appalachian Mountains, and there was a white woman from an Appalachian town saying she had gone to school with blacks, was a Democrat but had concerns about voting for Obama because he was black.

"It's just the fact that I think he will represent them," she said.

Her emphasis on the word "them" stuck with me long after I turned off the radio, got out of my car and walked to my office.

I thought about them, and how I am them.

Yes, I am them. As is my black wife, my three black daughters, my older black brother, my younger black sister, my black parents, my deceased grandparents and their parents on down the line, along with other black folks who are not kin of mine. Even Obama, who was not raised like most of the thems whom the Appalachian woman and other Americans refer to as them, is considered them.

There is nothing in the word itself that is insulting and derogatory. By itself, it is not a slur. It is nowhere near that other word that is used to refer to those black like me. Still, there was something in the way she said it that bothered me, troubled me, stirred me in a way that lets me know that I am something apart. Yes, something -- not someone.

It is always in the back of my mind and sometimes right out front, that I am them and that no matter what I do, I am seen as them and it is considered a negative no matter how prideful and positive I and others are about being one of them.

I was fortunate to have been raised to be proud of who I am as them. But it is clear to see that the lumping together of them was not a positive thing. I could sense it in her voice and tone.

Them.

So in a previous debate when McCain referred to Obama in as "that one," it gave reason for pause. I am them -- and that one. What more?

No one knows how this election will play out.

But it is clear that however it plays out, it will be a referendum on race.

So to the lady in that Appalachian town worried about Obama being concerned about the needs of them, and to the rest of America's nonblack Americans worried about what he will do for them, rest assured that as one of them, I want the same thing as y'all: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

There are a lot of other thems like me who want the same.

Letters to the Editor

The WOW for MMM

I was checking in to a Northwest flight to Detroit via Tokyo almost two weeks ago when one of the folks at the airport spotted my t-shirt and immediately inquired whether this was the week we were supposed to wear our Mariana Trench Marine Historic Monument orange garb. I was wearing my bright colored t-shirt with Mariana Trench Monument emblazoned on the front, and an image of deep gully underneath. The same image is at the back with the line: *the deepest darkest place on earth.*

The sense of awesome yet foreboding mystery might be an expected response to the intriguing phrase. Among friends and associates, on and off island, I just refer to the place as Mariana Marine Monument (MMM) and focus on its ecological character. Wear Orange Week (WOW) comes as a nice touch, especially since there has been many claims that "locals" are opposed to the monument.

This was not my experience. A Chamorro colleague who I worked with on issues confronting the special abilities community took one look at my orange attire, and pointedly asked: Are you for that? Wary that I might alienate my dear friend, I immediately thought the question required an answer of integrity, so I boldly said: YES!

"So am I," he beamed. So did two local ladies who checked me in at the airport terminal. They were so proud to say that they will be wearing their shirts during Wear Orange Week.

At the terminal waiting lounge, a fellow passenger, a former Navy officer, also noticed the t-shirt and immediately engaged me in conversation. Used to nuclear-powered carriers, he wondered out loud if we could use the deep trench to store and bury nuclear waste. Before I could protest, he immediately followed his query with: Nah! We decided that shooting the waste out to outer space is probably safer for the environment.

The thumps-up I got from many passengers aboard the plane on both the Tokyo and Detroit legs were heartening. I did not realize how well-known the project is. When I alighted in Detroit and had cleared immigration and about to get out of customs, the last officer looked at me and said: "You are from Saipan. I know about the Marine Monument, and I hope, it gets declared." This was a Scandinavian-looking man who one would least expect to be up to date with international news.

I've been washing my shirt every night ever since and proudly wearing it in Dallas. The number of students at my alma mater, Southern Methodist University, who recognized the monument was astounding. And I thought SMU was simply a jock and sorority fun campus!

I write this from the DFW lounge on my way back to Saipan. I am landing with an orange attire. I hope to see a few observing WOW, as well.

Jaime R. Vergara
via e-mail

Awakening of the world

I am so happy that advisers of the President are here to witness the cohesive community-wide support and interest in the Marine Monument. This designation, and we ask that it be so, will be a great awakening to the people of the world regarding the wonders and beauty that the waters surrounding our home offer. Come and visit this truly natural wonder of the world that needs to be protected in such a manner as to satisfy our cultural, environmental, educational, joint governance and sound enforcement needs.

Show your support of this wonderful endeavor. Write to the President himself. See you at any function of the Friends of the Monument; and wear orange. *Basta fan man mamalao, ta fan inakomprnde yan inagoflie, i chelon miyo.*

Lee Taitano
Teneto, Luta

Thanks for supporting marine monument plan

The Friends of the Monument would like to thank the 5,502 individual residents who have signed the support the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument petition and the 60 petition gatherers who volunteered their time to achieve this tremendous showing of public support.

We started collecting signatures on June 21 and for four months you stood in front of stores, brought the petition to family events and beach barbecues, walked the Thursday Street Market, sat at a tent at the Sabalu Market and went door to door in your villages to collect signatures.

Each of those 5,502 signatures represents a face-to-face conversation that took place in our community. You shared our vision for the monument and you told people why you were supporting it. You addressed people's concerns. You answered questions. While every once in a while a person refused to sign, overall you helped build overwhelming support for our monument.

Ignacio V. Cabrera
Chairman, Friends of the Monument

Amazed and proud

Yesterday I was amazed by the advertisement in the newspaper with four pages of signatures of those backing a Mariana Trench Monument! When I agreed to put my name on the Friends of the Monument petition and said they could put my name in the paper, I had no idea I would be joining so many others willing to publicly support the monument.

Everyone who included his or her name in the advertisement should be proud that we are speaking out on this important issue. I think it is an idea everyone should support.

Rosalia Duenas
Gualo Rai, Saipan

DFW

From Page 10

other will dominate the ecosystem and may imbalance the system making it less productive.

Sixth, many human activities, especially certain fishing methods, can damage fish and reef habitat. Even recreational activities can cause harm, if they result in anchor damage to sensitive reef areas, boat groundings, littering, or trampling of bottom-dwelling organisms by inexperienced snorkelers and divers. If these activities are restricted within marine protected areas, damage is less likely to occur. However, marine protected areas cannot prevent pollution originating outside their boundaries from harming habitat. The no take zone boundaries will not turn away oil spilled in an adjacent area or sediment and polluted water that runs off from land during heavy rainstorms.

Seventh, marine protected areas can directly benefit people by enhancing recreational opportunities and protecting cultural resources. People seeking to enjoy the natural environment expect scenic beauty and minimal evidence of human impacts. By prohibiting destructive uses, marine sanctuaries and conservation areas help sustain this concept of nature. In the CNMI, marine protected areas protect important cultural sites such as shipwrecks and Indigenous burial sites and permit traditional practices such as Fiirourow.

The existence of more, larger and many different types of fish makes marine protected areas very attractive for diving and snorkeling, and thus enhances the tourism industry. Based on their benefits to the fishing and tourism industries, marine protected areas are a good investment for the CNMI. They are similar to no-hunting areas within terrestrial wildlife conservation areas. Fishing rights, like hunting rights, must be balanced with conservation needs, the rights of other marine resource users, and the rights of future generations to have sustainable resources. Marine protected areas provide a good means of protecting these rights. No take zones ensure the protection of marine bio-diversity, which is the source ultimately of all fisheries productivity, the source of marine life that attracts divers and snorkelers, and provides the basis for our unique island culture and lifestyle.

The Marine Sanctuaries program at DFW has supported the formation of Advisory Committees for all no take zones to ensure input from stakeholders and those parties affected by the establishment of marine sanctuary's and conservation areas. DFW encourages the public and these stakeholders to actively participate in the planning, management and enforcement of protected areas. By reinforcing social and cultural lines of enforcement, balanced use, and fisheries management, our marine protected areas can sustain our needs today and the needs of generations to come. Please help support and promote the No Take Zone policy by participating, whether directly as an informed stakeholder, or passively by respecting the restrictions in marine sanctuary's, conservation areas, and reserves. It's the right thing to do! And, it's the law!

To learn more about our programs or to directly participate in our Protected Areas Program, contact DFW at jkrdfw@itecnmi.com or call us at 670-664-6000 to 6004.

Ken Kramer
Friends of the MTMM

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

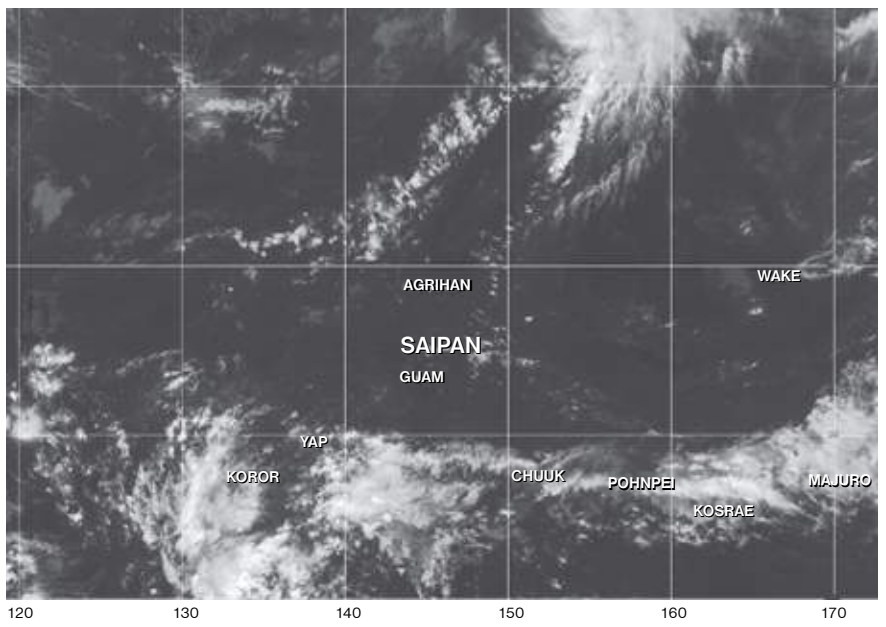
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲63	▼55
Beijing	Cloudy	▲65	▼52
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼77
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼75
London	Showers	▲51	▼36
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲81	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90	▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲61	▼46
Miami	Showers	▲85	▼75
New York	Partly Sunny	▲60	▼43
Osaka	Sunny	▲73	▼57
Paris	Rain	▲49	▼39
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲77	▼61
Rome	Cloudy	▲72	▼53
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲65	▼39
San Francisco	Sunny	▲74	▼52
Seoul	Cloudy	▲73	▼59
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼60
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲67	▼45

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends northeastward from 22N135E to 25N145E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found within 50 miles of the front. A surface trough extends northeastward from 5n130E to 11n135E. Convergence near and to the southeast of the trough is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Koror between the equator and 9N from 131E to 135E. Another surface trough extends northeastward from 3N142E to 10N145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring east of Yap between 5N and 9N from 140E to 146E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Kosrae and the Marshall Islands within 150 miles of a line extending eastward from 7N159E to 8N173E and between 3N and 6N from 177E to 180. A low-pressure system centered near 22N172E northeast of Wake Island is generating scattered showers within 50 miles of a line extending northward from 15N178E to 19N177E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
6:38AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
2:33PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:43PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
11:41PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:10AM	5:53 PM
Wednesday	6:10AM	5:53 PM
Thursday	6:10AM	5:52 PM
Friday	6:11AM	5:52 PM
Saturday	6:11AM	5:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today		12:24PM
Wednesday	12:00AM	1:14PM
Thursday	12:59AM	1:58PM
Friday	1:54AM	2:38PM
Saturday	2:47AM	3:16PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844	3:15am	5:55am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843	7:50pm	2:15am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
4,098.700
Up 153.900
(+3.90%)

HONG KONG
15,182.09
Up 627.88
(+4.31%)

JAKARTA
1,429.811
Up 30.387
(+2.17%)

TOKYO
9,005.59
Up 311.77
(+3.59%)

K. LUMPUR
905.23
Down 14.79
(-1.61%)

MANILA
2,062.88
Down 35.38
(-1.69%)

SINGAPORE
1,935.54
Up 57.03
(+3.04%)

SEOUL
1,207.63
Up 26.96
(+2.28%)

BANGKOK
476.56
Up 5.25
(+1.11%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
8,852.22
-127.04

NASDAQ
1,711.29
0.00

S&P
940.55
0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.4239
British Pound	0.5723
Canadian Dollar	1.1774
Chinese Renmbi	6.8299
Euro	0.7405
Hong Kong Dollar	7.758
Indian Rupee	48.732
Indonesian Rupiah	9817.5
Japanese Yen	102.167
Malaysian Ringgit	3.5205
New Zealand Dollar	1.6188
Philippine Peso	48.13
Singapore Dollar	1.4776
South Korean Won	1310.75
Swiss Franc	1.1348
Taiwan Dollar	32.584
Thailand Baht	34.278

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Grocery bill still high? Blame 'sticky' prices

By CHRISTOPHER LEONARD
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Worries over a global recession have pushed the price of oil to its lowest in over a year. Don't expect the same for a bottle of beer, a tube of toothpaste, or a box of cereal.

You can blame "sticky" prices.

That's what analysts call it when companies slap higher prices on products and keep them there even though the rationale for the price hikes - such as soaring oil prices - is gone.

The falling cost of oil could help companies pad their profit margins as they pay less to make and transport goods. But it won't mean a break on the average grocery bill.

The price of consumer goods typically lags behind the price of key inputs like oil and wheat, said Chris Lafakis, an economist with Moody's economy.com.

"Consumer prices don't change near as fast, because they are set by companies," Lafakis said. "Commodity prices are set every day on an open market."

The opposite is also true: Companies hesitate to hike prices because it might push consumers to into the arms of a competitor, or to cheaper alternatives.

Meat companies like Tyson Foods Inc., for example, have swallowed losses this year as ingredient costs rose because executives were fearful consumers would abandon their products if prices jumped too fast. Tyson's profit plunged 92 percent in the third quarter and the company said it didn't expect a rebound soon.

But once a price hike is in place, it virtually never goes away, Lafakis said. The one factor than can drive prices down is a drastic drop in demand, but few economists expect the global economic downturn to be so severe it would cause widespread deflation, he said. More likely is that inflation will slow or possibly flatten.

That was the case last month, when consumer prices were essentially flat, even as oil prices plunged.

The core Consumer Price Index, which eliminates food and energy prices, rose 0.1 percent, according to U.S. Labor Department figures. That was only about half the jump economists had expected, but it still lagged far behind the drop in oil prices. Crude oil has plunged more than 53 percent from its record high of $147.27 between July and October.

Companies also tend to price their products based on what their competitors are charging and not necessarily on what it costs to make them, said Lars Perner, assistant professor of marketing at the University of Southern California's Marshall School of Business.

Coca-Cola is more interested in what Pepsi is charging for a six-pack than the cost of its ingredients, such as high fructose corn syrup, he said. Neither Coca-Cola Co. nor Pepsico Inc. would comment on possible price cuts in the future.

That means consumers are in a fix these days. Prices have been going up broadly across whole categories of products, meaning competitors have been hiking prices in unison. For example, both Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc. and SABMiller's U.S. unit have been raising the price for beer, with neither one too worried that the price hikes will push customers to their competitor.

AP

In this Aug. 25, 2008 file photo, Kris Loew, left, talks with a grocery clerk as she checks out at a market in Palo Alto, Calif.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil rises to $73 on expectation of OPEC cut

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose to $73 a barrel in Asia on Monday on expectations that OPEC will cut production quotas at an extraordinary meeting later this week. Light, sweet crude for November delivery rose $1.16 to $73.01 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract Friday gained $1.53 to settle at $71.38. Chakib Khelil, president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, said Sunday that members plan to announce a "substantial" cut at a meeting that begins Oct. 24 in Vienna. Khelil, who is also Algeria's energy minister, said OPEC may cut output again at a meeting in December, and that the group considers the oil market oversupplied by about 2 million barrels a day, Khelil said.

SAG board votes to allow members to vote on strike

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A vote by the leaders of the Screen Actors Guild on Sunday has simultaneously ratcheted up negotiation efforts and the possibility of strike. The guild's national board of directors voted to formally request a federal mediator for stalled contract talks with studios and, at the same time, agreed to ask members if they want to authorize a strike. The resolution "authorizes a referendum and accompanying educational information be sent to the members requesting their authorization for the National Board to call a strike" if negotiations fail. If 75 percent of SAG's 120,000 members vote in favor of a labor action, it would then be left to the national negotiating committee to call the strike if it deems it necessary. "We hope mediation will help move this process forward. This action by the board demonstrates our commitment to bargain with the strength of our unified membership behind us," said Screen Actors Guild National President Alan Rosenberg in a statement.

Bruised economy likely to limp into 2009

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Beaten down by housing, credit and financial crises, the bruised economy is likely to drag into next year, leaving more people out of work and more businesses wary of making big investments.

Bernanke

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, scheduled to appear Monday before the House Budget Committee, is likely to once again put the country on notice that there won't be a quick fix.

Even if the turmoil gripping Wall Street were to let up and badly shaken confidence in the banking system fully restored, a "broader economic recovery will not happen right away," Bernanke warned last week. "Economic activity will fall short of potential for a time," he said.

The Fed chief has left the door open for further interest rate reductions to provide some relief.

Dropping rates might induce consumers and businesses to stop burrowing and instead boost their spending, an important ingredient to energize overall economic activity.

So far, though, a string of drastic actions by the Federal Reserve and the Bush administration has yet to turn around a bunker mentality. Banks are fearful of lending money to each other and to their customers. Businesses are reluctant to hire and boost capital investments. Consumers have hunkered down. All the economy's problems are feeding off each other, creating a vicious cycle that Washington policymakers are finding difficult to break.

Wall Street eyes earnings, looking for bottom

NEW YORK (AP)—With little question the U.S. is in the grips of a recession, investors this week will lean on a stream of earnings and economic reports to help determine exactly how prolonged and painful the downturn might be.

There's certainly been fresh evidence the credit market has begun to thaw. But, that alone might not be enough to restore confidence in the stock market at a time when investors are clamoring for stronger signs of a bottom.

■■■

HONG KONG (AP)—Most Asian stock markets advanced Monday, with South Korean shares gaining for the first time in four days as the government moved to shore up the country's banking system amid the global credit crisis.

Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average rose 1.1 percent to 8,941.50, and the Hang Seng Index in Hong Kong surged 4.3 percent to 15,185.91.

AP

The board on the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the final result of 127.04 points down as the Dow ends a volatile week on Wall Street Friday, Oct. 17, 2008.

In South Korea, the Kospi climbed more than 2 percent after the government said it would provide up to $100 billion to secure banks' maturing foreign currency for three years. Mainland China shares, meanwhile, trended downward, hurt by new government figures showing the country's economic growth eased to 9 in the third quarter of this year.

■■■

Trying to predict a floor for major U.S. stock market indexes has proven to be a difficult task. Wall Street ended a volatile two-week run fairly stable on Friday, and there were indications that bank-to-bank lending rates eased and that some companies returned to the bond market to raise cash.

Those indicators might have previously been enough to reassure anxious investors that the worst is over for the stock market. However, amid a financial crisis not seen for decades, analysts still remain cautious.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Farrakhan: A 'new beginning' for Nation of Islam

CHICAGO (AP)—Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan stressed unity among religions, while still preaching a message of black empowerment, at a rare public event Sunday deemed "a new beginning" for the Chicago-based movement. In the nearly two-hour speech, Farrakhan covered topics including immigration, public schools, violence and morality. He vaguely referred to the presidential election but did not specifically mention any candidates. "We are all in a journey to become complete human beings," the 75-year-old Farrakhan told the crowd of thousands gathered inside Mosque Maryam and in white tents outside. "Look how we have become so divided, so hateful, while claiming the same creator." Farrakhan renewed a call for many to get back to the basic tenets of Islam, while still encouraging black pride. "Black people must stop seeing themselves as inferior, and whites must stop seeing themselves as superior," he said, adding that black Muslims "have to keep going our own way." Though other religious leaders and non-Muslims were invited to the public event, most of those in attendance were Nation of Islam followers.

King siblings say family court fight was necessary

ATLANTA (AP)—The Rev. Bernice King and Martin Luther King III haven't spoken to their brother in months, and their painful family feud has kept Dexter King from meeting his only niece, his two remaining siblings said Saturday. The middle children of Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King told The Associated Press that the ongoing fight may seem at odds with their parents' peacemaking example. But they maintain their decision to face their brother in court, though difficult, is in keeping with what they were taught. "No one wants to be at this place," Martin Luther King III said, adding that negotiation and direct action are part of the nonviolent strategy espoused by his parents. "Certainly, Bernice and I would not want to be here, but we didn't have a choice. We were not able to get a resolution to the conflict we are engaged in. My father also used the court system." "This was a very agonizing decision for us because we are family," Bernice King added.

Powell endorses Obama for president

AMERICA VOTES

WASHINGTON (AP)—Colin Powell, a Republican and retired general who was President Bush's first secretary of state, broke with the party Sunday and endorsed Democrat Barack Obama for president, calling him a "transformational figure" while criticizing the tone of John McCain's campaign.

The former Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman said either senator is qualified to be commander in chief. But after studying both, he concluded that Obama is better suited than McCain, the standard-bearer of Powell's own party, to handle the nation's economic problems and help improve its world standing.

"It isn't easy for me to disappoint Sen. McCain in the way that I have this morning, and I regret that," Powell said on NBC's "Meet the Press," where he announced the endorsement and delivered a serious blow to the aspirations of his longtime friend, Arizona Sen. McCain.

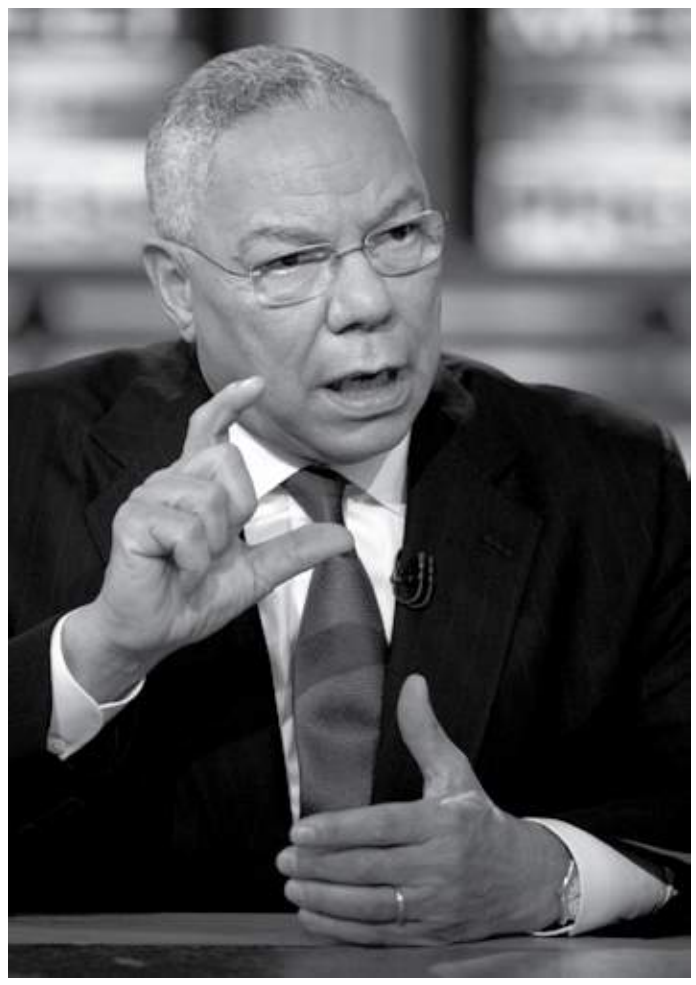
But, Powell added: "I think we need a transformational figure. I think we need a president who is a generational change and that's why I'm supporting Barack Obama, not out of any lack of respect or admiration for Sen. John McCain."

The endorsement by Powell amounted to a stunning rejection of McCain, a 26-year veteran of Congress and a former Vietnam prisoner of war who has campaigned as the experienced, tested candidate who knows how to keep the country safe.

Powell's endorsement has been much anticipated because of his impressive foreign policy credentials, a subject on which Obama, a first-term senator from Illinois, is weak. Powell is a Republican centrist popular among moderate voters.

At the same time, Powell is a black man and Obama would be the nation's first black president—a goal Powell considered pursuing for himself in 1996, before deciding not to run. Powell said he was cognizant of the racial aspect of his endorsement, but said that was not the dominant factor in his decision.

Powell expressed disappointment in the negative tone of McCain's campaign, his choice of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as a running mate and their decision to focus in the closing weeks of the contest on Obama's ties to 1960s-era radical William Ayers, saying "it goes too far."



AP

In this photo provided by NBC, Meet The Press, shows former Secretary of State Gen. Colin Powell speaking during a taping of "Meet the Press" at NBC Sunday Oct. 19, 2008, in Washington.

McCain casts himself as a middle-class guardian

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—Evoking "Joe the Plumber" near his hometown in this pivotal state, Republican John McCain on Sunday cast himself as the guardian of middle-class workers and small-business owners who fuel the economy.

"If I'm elected president, I won't raise taxes on small businesses, as Sen. (Barack) Obama proposes, and force them to cut jobs," McCain said of his Democratic opponent during a rally at the convention center. "I will keep small business taxes where they are, help them keep their costs low and let them spend their earnings to create more jobs, not send to Washington."

McCain flew to Toledo, near where "Joe the Plumber" Wurzelbacher lives, from the state capital of Columbus amid the GOP's push for this swing state and its 20 electoral votes.

The Holland, Ohio, plumber was in New York making the media rounds with his family, but McCain has been evoking his spirit after making him the focal point the final presidential debate between McCain and Obama. McCain also mentions Wurzelbacher at his rallies after the plumber was videotaped questioning Obama about whether his tax plan would keep him from buying the two-man plumbing shop where he works.

While some analyses showed Wurzelbacher faring better under Obama's plan than McCain's, McCain has lashed out at Obama for saying that while his policies may force some to pay higher taxes, they were designed to "spread the wealth around" by targeting only families making over $250,000 annually.

"Sen. Obama is more interested in controlling who gets your piece of the pie than he is growing the pie," McCain told a crowd of several thousand.

During an earlier rally at Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio, McCain drew cheers when he proclaimed that he was campaigning "on behalf of Joe the Plumber and Rose the Teacher and Phil the Bricklayer and Wendy the Waitress."

Obama, in North Carolina, said he is the one worried about "the cops and firefighters who keep us safe, ... the waitresses who work double shifts, the cashiers at Wal-Mart, the plumbers fighting for the American Dream."

He added: "John McCain thinks that giving these Americans a break is socialism. Well I call it opportunity, and there is nothing more American than that."

McCain complained during a nationally televised interview that the vast sums of money Obama is raising risk the post-Watergate financing reforms.

Abducted Las Vegas boy is returned to his father

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A 6-year-old boy abducted from his home at gunpoint was safe in his father's custody Sunday as police tried to untangle any ties the youngster's family had to the Mexican drug dealers suspected of taking him.

Police were interviewing Cole Puffinburger after he was found by a bus driver Saturday night on a quiet street outside a Methodist church in Las Vegas.

"We're speaking with the boy today," FBI spokesman David Staretz said Sunday. "I know he's being interviewed by law enforcement, and we'll probably get a better idea of where he's been."

Cole's father, Robert Puffinburger, was a picture of relief at a news conference, as he smiled, cried and thanked police and neighbors for helping to bring Cole home.

"I'm just so glad he's safe," his father said.

Staretz would not comment further on what had happened to Cole in the four days since he was snatched from his mother's home by two men posing as police officers. Police have said they believe the abduction Wednesday was an attempt by drug dealers to send a message to the boy's grandfather.

A bus driver for the disabled discovered Cole walking alone on a residential street, said Jacob Snow, a general manager for the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada. The driver pulled over to see if he was OK.

"Cole approached the bus and asked the driver, 'Can you take me home?'" Snow said.

The bus driver, who did not want to be identified, took Cole onto the bus and contacted police, Snow said. The child told the driver and riders that he had been dropped off just a few minutes before.

Cole was in "extremely good condition" but was taken to University Medical Center as a precaution, Las Vegas police Capt. Vincent Cannito said. He was treated and released to his father's care early Sunday, hospital spokesman Rick Plummer said.

Robert Puffinburger and police had concentrated search efforts on a largely Hispanic neighborhood a few miles from where Cole was found. They posted fliers in English and Spanish with a photograph of the boy, a slight, smiling blond in glasses.

On Sunday, a blue painted sign in the front yard of the home from which Cole was abducted read, "Welcome Home Cole." The home appeared sparsely furnished, with a bare mattress on the living room floor. No one answered the door.

Robert Puffinburger would not comment on Cole's mother or her father, 51-year-old Clemens Tinnemeyer, who police say may have stolen millions from dealers involved in trafficking methamphetamine.

Tinnemeyer was scheduled to appear before a federal magistrate Monday in Riverside, Calif. He was arrested there Friday and was being held in nearby San Bernardino on a material witness warrant issued by a federal court in Nevada.

Parents press states for autism insurance laws

CHICAGO (AP)—In Washington state, Reza and Arzu Forough pay more than $1,000 a week for behavior therapy for their 12-year-old autistic son.

In Indiana, Sean and Michele Trivedi get the same type of therapy for their 11-year-old daughter. But they pay $3,000 a year and their health insurance covers the rest.

Two families. Two states. Big difference in out-of-pocket costs.

If autism advocates get their way, more states will follow Indiana's lead by requiring health insurers to cover intensive and costly behavior therapy for autism.

In the past two years, six states—Texas, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Florida, South Carolina, Louisiana - passed laws requiring such coverage, costing in some cases up to $50,000 a year per child.

The powerful advocacy group Autism Speaks has endorsed bills in New Jersey, Virginia and Michigan and is targeting at least 10 more states in 2009, including New York, California and Ohio.

Other states, including Illinois, have similar bills in the works but aren't working directly with Autism Speaks.

"This is the hottest trend in mandates we've seen in a long time," said J.P. Wieske, a lobbyist for an insurance coalition that argues that these state requirements drive up insurance costs for everyone. "It is hard to fight them."

For lawmakers, voting against these measures means voting against parents who are struggling to do the best for their children.

Parents tell moving stories about how behavior therapy works better than anything they've tried. In two states, bills got nicknames like "Steven's Law" and "Ryan's Law," so voting against them was tough.

Asia

SKorea: Nothing unusual in North despite rumors

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea said Monday it was business as usual in North Korea, despite media reports that Pyongyang was poised to make an announcement possibly concerning the health of its leader, Kim Jong Il.

Japanese newspapers reported over the weekend that the communist nation had ordered its diplomats abroad to be on standby and planned to ban foreigners from entering the country ahead of an "important announcement."

The autocratic North Korean leader has been the focus of intense speculation since he disappeared from public view in mid August. U.S. and South Korean officials suspect he suffered a stroke and had brain surgery. North Korea has flatly denied there is anything wrong with its 66-year-old leader.

Tokyo's Sankei newspaper reported the North planned to make an announcement Monday and it could be about Kim's death or a government change induced by a coup.

"There were some media reports about (the North) banning foreigners," said Kim Ho-nyeon, spokesman for Seoul's Unification Ministry in charge of monitoring North Korea. "But there are no unusual signs regarding civilian exchanges between the South and the North. They are going on as scheduled."

The spokesman added, "All of North Korea's internal broadcasting as well as international and domestic events are proceeding normally."

Seoul's main spy agency, the National Intelligence Service, said Sunday it could not confirm the Japanese reports.

In a dispatch Sunday from the northeastern Chinese city of Shenyang, South Korea's Yonhap news agency also quoted an unnamed source in Beijing as saying some North Korean Embassy officials who left on business trips have not returned.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Noel Clay said he could not comment on what the reported announcement might be.

About one week ago, North Korea released photos showing Kim inspecting a military unit and appearing healthy. However, it did not say when the pictures were taken, sparking speculation the photos might have been taken earlier because the lush green foliage appeared not to match the Korean peninsula's current autumn season.

On Sunday, the North's official Korean Central News Agency published typical propaganda dispatches praising Kim's regime and criticizing the South Korean government. There were no articles indicating any imminent government announcement.

AP

South Korean tourist looks at North Korea's stamps next to stamps showing North Korean leader Kim Jong Il and his late father and North Korea founder Kim Il Sung near the border village of the Panmunjom (DMZ) in Paju, north of Seoul, South Korea, Sunday, Oct. 19, 2008.

Pakistan officials: 30 militants killed in clashes

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani forces killed at least 30 militants near the Afghan border, as the region's provincial chief called for "peaceful dialogue" in a meeting with a U.S. State Department official.

The U.S. Embassy would not comment on U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher's meeting with North West Frontier Province Chief Minister Amir Haider Khan Hoti, other than to say his trip had been planned for some time and that he was meeting a range of government officials.

Boucher's trip comes amid strains between Islamabad and Washington over suspected American missile attacks targeting militants inside Pakistan. Washington wants Islamabad to do more to root out the al-Qaida and Taliban fighters based inside Pakistan whom they blame for rising attacks on U.S. troops in Afghanistan and other targets.

In a statement, Hoti said he told Boucher during the meeting in Peshawar that he wanted to "to resolve all political problems through peaceful dialogue, but there wouldn't be any compromise on maintaining the writ of the government."

Pakistani soldiers are battling militants on three fronts in the northwest of the country. In the past, the government has tried unsuccessfully to make peace deals with the insurgents, drawing criticism from the United States.

Police killer in China gets death penalty

SHANGHAI, China (AP)—A young man who drew a surprising amount of sympathy in China after being convicted of killing six policemen in Shanghai will get the death penalty after losing his final appeal Monday.

Dozens of angry Chinese massed outside the Shanghai Higher People's Court during the verdict. "He's a hero," one woman shouted. "The Chinese people have no right to speak," one man declared.

Widespread disgust in China over police behavior led to a wave of support for Yang Jia, who was accused of forcing his way into a Shanghai police station July 1 and killing six officers in a stabbing spree. Such violence is rare in China.

Even some state-run media published sympathetic profiles of Yang, asking what could have made the mild-mannered 28-year-old jobless man snap.

Police said Yang was taking revenge after police interrogated him on suspicion of having stolen the bike he was riding. Yang then sued the police for psychological damage, but the claim was rejected.

The original trial was closed to the media, and Shanghai media wasn't allowed to mention it. But some media and legal observers objected to Yang's lawyer in the original trial because he's a legal adviser for the Shanghai district where the attack occurred. Yang was appointed a new lawyer for his appeal.

Last week, Yang's appeal drew at least a dozen angry supporters who wore T-shirts with his face on them, but were quickly dispersed by police.

A request for further psychological testing on Yang was turned down last week, with authorities saying Yang was not insane at the time of the stabbings.

During his appeal last week, Yang agreed he didn't have a mental problem but said, "I think those cops are mentally unstable," apparently meaning the ones who interrogated him, the China Daily newspaper reported. Foreign journalists were not allowed to attend.

China says economic growth will slow amid turmoil

BEIJING (AP)—China said Sunday its economy can weather the effects of the global financial turmoil, but growth will decline as the expansion of business profits and public revenues slows.

The State Council said in a statement at the end of an executive meeting led by Premier Wen Jiabao that the turmoil and economic instability will have a "gradual" effect on the country.

It said China's economic growth will slow along with corporate profits and public revenues, and as capital markets continue to fluctuate.

"Unfavorable international factors and the serious natural disasters at home have not changed the basic growth situation of our country's economy," said the statement posted on a government Web site. "Our country's economic growth has the ability and vigor to resist risks."

The country was hit by two major natural disasters this year—a winter storm just before February's Lunar New Year that left scores dead and hundreds of thousands stranded during the country's busiest travel period, and a magnitude 7.9 earthquake in May that left nearly 90,000 people dead or missing.

China must "adopt flexible and cautious macroeconomic policies" to maintain stable growth, the statement said.

The council said that in the fourth quarter, China should focus on developing the rural economy, while striving to control inflation.

ASIAN BRIEFS

NATO: 20 insurgents killed west of Afghan capital

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The NATO-led force in Afghanistan says its troops assaulted an insurgent stronghold just west of the capital in a two-day battle that left 20 militants dead. NATO said in a statement Monday that the battle took place in Wardak province. The province has become an insurgent stronghold at the gates of the capital just 40 miles west of Kabul. NATO says its troops were flown into Wardak's Jalrez District on Thursday and were attacked by insurgents. That sparked a two-day battle in which airstrikes were used to kill more than 20 militants. No NATO troops were killed in the clash.

Global rice market to remain tight in 2009, rice institute says

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Export restrictions by key producing nations, coupled with population growth, are expected to keep the global rice market tight for the second consecutive year, an international institute said Monday. Rapid hikes earlier this year in the price of rice—the staple food of 2.5 billion people—set off riots and protests from Africa to Asia to the Caribbean amid fears of a global food shortage. From a record US$1,000 per metric ton in May, the price of Thai 100 percent Grade B slipped to about US$800 in June and US$764 in September, according to a quarterly publication of the Philippine-based International Rice Research Institute and the Food and Agriculture Organization. Global rice stocks, which were at a record low of 73 million tons in 2004-05, have been steadily rising and are projected to reach 82 million tons in 2008-09, up from 78.5 million tons in 2007-08, the IRRI said. It said it expected a record production of 432 million metric tons of milled rice—up 1 percent over last year's yield—based on the expected expansion of rice fields by almost 2.5 million acres (1 million hectares), with India accounting for half of the increase.

Sri Lanka says troops seizes key rebel village

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Troops seized a strategic village from separatist Tamil Tiger rebels following a two-month battle, moving the government a step closer to capturing the militants' de facto capital in northern Sri Lanka, the military said Monday. The battle for Vannerikulam village, about 15 miles west of the rebel capital Kilinochchi, was challenging because the rebels had erected a six-mile-long dirt mound from which they had a clear view of the surrounding territory, the military said in a statement.

Soldiers cleared the mound, the military said, but would not give more details. The statement said the capture of the village Sunday could ease the military's advance into Kilinochchi, which has housed the rebel headquarters for the past 10 years. Another group of soldiers advancing from a different direction are within one mile from Kilinochchi town limits, according to the military. The military did not release any details on casualties from the battle, and it was not possible to contact rebel officials for comment because communication lines to the rebel territory have been severed.

World

Shiite bloc holds off OK to US-Iraq security pact

BAGHDAD (AP)—Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's ruling Shiite coalition withheld support Sunday for the proposed security pact that would keep U.S. troops here for three more years, dealing a setback to American hopes of a speedy approval of the agreement.

The statement by the United Iraqi Alliance called for unspecified changes to the draft agreement, which parliament must ratify by the end of the year when the U.N. mandate expires.

The group's move comes a day after tens of thousands of demonstrators, mostly Shiites, took to the streets of Baghdad to show their opposition to the agreement.

The Shiite alliance holds 85 of parliament's 275 seats and al-Maliki needs its solid support to win approval of the agreement by a strong majority.

The 30 lawmakers loyal to anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr have already said they will vote against the agreement, and some Sunni lawmakers have spoken out against it too.

AP

Iraqi troops enter a suspected insurgent's house during a routine patrol in the village of Talia'ah, 30 kilometers (20 miles) north-west of Diwaniyah, Iraq, Sunday, Oct. 19, 2008.

But the alliance represents the groups that profited the most from the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled their archenemy Saddam Hussein. The fact that it was hesitant to commit to the agreement underscores the ambivalent feelings many Iraqis have toward the Americans after five years of war.

In its statement, the alliance said the agreement, hammered out in months of difficult negotiations, contained some "positive points" but more time was needed "for discussion, dialogue and to amend some of its articles."

The alliance established a committee to solicit views and study the agreement in detail, the statement added. Al-Maliki aide Yassin Majid said Sunday that the prime minister had postponed a planned visit this week to Australia to deal with the security agreement.

The alliance did not specify what it considered positive or negative, and Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari warned it would be difficult to reopen negotiations.

The agreement provides for American troops to leave Baghdad and other Iraqi cities by the end of June and withdraw from the country entirely by the end of 2011 unless the government asks them to stay.

It would also give Iraq limited authority to prosecute U.S. soldiers and contractors for crimes committed off post and off duty, limit U.S. authority to search homes and detain people and give Iraqis more say in the conduct of American military operations.

Al-Maliki aide Sami al-Askari told The Associated Press that several members of the alliance wanted to remove language allowing the government to ask any Americans to stay beyond the end of 2011.

He also said some members wanted to know who would decide whether crimes committed by Americans met the standard for Iraqi trials.

Hassan al-Suneid, a lawmaker from al-Maliki's party, said members had reservations about portions "that don't comply with Iraq's sovereignty."

"We cannot talk today about rejection or acceptance in the absolute," al-Suneid told The Associated Press. "There are weak and strong points," including a timeline for the departure of American troops.

Barak: Israel considering Saudi peace plan

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli leaders are seriously considering a dormant Saudi plan offering a comprehensive peace between Israel and the Arab world in exchange for lands captured during the 1967 war, Defense Minister Ehud Barak said Sunday.

Barak

Barak said it may be time to pursue an overall peace deal for the region because individual negotiations with Syria and the Palestinians have made little progress.

Barak said he has discussed the Saudi plan with Prime Minister-designate Tzipi Livni, who is in the process of forming a new government, and that Israel is considering a response. Barak, who leads the Labor party, is expected to play a senior role in the next government.

Livni's office refused to comment on her talks with Barak.

Saudi Arabia first proposed the peace initiative in 2002, offering pan-Arab recognition of Israel in exchange for Israel's withdrawal from Arab lands captured in 1967 - the West Bank, Gaza Strip, east Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. The 22-member Arab League endorsed the plan last year.

Israel has said the plan is a good basis for discussion, but expressed some reservations.

"There is definitely room to introduce a comprehensive Israeli plan to counter the Saudi plan that would be the basis for a discussion on overall regional peace," Barak told Israel's Army Radio.

He noted the "deep, joint interest" with moderate Arab leaders in containing Iran's nuclear ambitions and limiting the influence of the radical Islamic Hezbollah movement in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza.

Analyst Ghassan Khatib, a former minister in the Palestinian Cabinet, said interest in the plan was "a little bit late" but welcome.

Cubans head for Mexico to dodge US sea patrols

ISLA MUJERES, Mexico (AP)—On the night Lazaro Mendez got an alert that his boat had been stolen from the Florida Keys, he was swept up in a new chapter of the Cuban boat people drama.

Grabbing a laptop computer that tracked the fishing boat's position by satellite, he watched as it stopped for refueling at sea, then shot off toward Cuba—the latest in a swarm of thefts of Florida boats prized by smugglers for their speed.

Mendez, a Cuban-American and a popular Miami radio personality known as "DJ Laz," set out to get his boat back, succeeded, and even came face to face with the men who stole it. But it was just the tiniest of setbacks for a human-trafficking industry that is thriving off the Cuban exodus.

Because it has become so hard to dodge the U.S. Coast Guard and reach Florida to qualify for U.S. residency, Cuban migrants in recent years have been heading for Mexico, then overland to Texas. Last year 11,126 used that route, compared to just 1,055 who landed in the Miami area, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

Evidence of this new escape route is stacking up at a Mexican Navy yard in Isla Mujeres, where the dock regularly runs out of space for seized Florida boats. During a visit to the small Navy dock last week, The Associated Press counted eight

9 Chinese oil workers kidnapped in Sudan

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—Nine Chinese oil workers were kidnapped in an oil-rich region of southwestern Sudan in the latest attack on China's interests in the African country, officials said Sunday.

Sudanese officials blamed a Darfur rebel group for Saturday's kidnapping, calling it a stab at development efforts in Sudan. The attack took place outside the western Darfur region and none of the Darfur rebel groups, who have fought the central government for five years, claimed responsibility.

But the rebels have targeted Chinese interests outside Darfur in the past, saying the Asian power's massive investments in Sudan's oil sector help the government in its fight in Darfur. A year ago, one of the Darfur rebel groups warned Chinese and other oil firms to leave the country.

It was the third attack on Chinese targets over the past 12 months.

International human rights groups and Darfur activists have also grown more critical of China's relationship with Sudan, saying the close ties help fuel the bloodshed in Darfur, which has left as many as 300,000 dead and driven more than 2.5 million from their homes since 2003.

China buys nearly two-thirds of Sudan's oil, and oil sales account for 70 percent of the African country's export revenue. Beijing is also believed to be the provider of most of Sudan's small arms, many of which are used in Darfur. Beijing, which has veto power in the U.N. Security Council, has resisted tough Security Council action against Sudan over the conflict.

The kidnapping occurred in the Kordofan region, which neighbors Darfur to the east and is the epicenter of Sudan's oil industry. It took place near the oil-rich region of Abyei, which is close to southern Sudan. The Chinese operate an oil field in the Heglig area of Kordofan, about 435 miles southwest of the capital, Khartoum.

Iraqi puppy adopted by soldier en route to US

BAGHDAD (AP)—Ratchet the Iraqi puppy finally had his day.

An animal rescue group flew into Baghdad on Sunday and picked up the dog, which was adopted by Army Spc. Gwen Beberg, 28, of Minneapolis in a case that highlighted military rules barring troops from caring for pets while in Iraq. Ratchet was loaded onto a charter flight, which took off Sunday night for Kuwait. He's due in Minnesota later this week.

It was the third try by Operation Baghdad Pups to get Ratchet out of the country on behalf of Beberg, who says she couldn't have made it through her 13-month deployment without the affectionate mutt.

She and another soldier rescued the puppy from a burning pile of trash in May.

Beberg's quest to get the dog has gained international attention. More than 65,000 people from Illinois to Italy have signed an online petition urging the Army to let the puppy go to the United States.

The U.S. military has said the dog was free to leave but American troops could not be responsible for its transportation.

"We're happy the SPCA has made arrangements for his safe travel to the U.S., we hope he has a long, happy, fruitful life there," military spokesman Lt. Col. Paul Swiergosz said.

Beberg initially tried to send him with a military convoy from her base south of Baghdad to the airport for an Oct. 1 pickup. But the playful black dog with a touch of white on his nose, chest and paws was reportedly confiscated by an Army officer and sent back.

AP

Mike Bell a member of a private security firm leads the Iraqi dog called Ratchet, as they wait at the Baghdad International Airport, Iraq, on Sunday, Oct. 19, 2008, ready to be flown to America after Ratchet was adopted by an American soldier.

Overdrive

2008 BMW M6 CONVERTIBLE
Suspending reality

THE WASHINGTON POST

The 2008 BMW M6 convertible, at about $100,000, is an automotive toy that few can afford.

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

NEW YORK—The 2008 BMW M6 convertible invites a swift departure from reality. It is an expensive escape pod bereft of practical value, generally lacking in common sense.

It can be enjoyed only through a willing suspension of disbelief, most often achievable with the assistance of wealth. Consider the price.

Without options, the M6 convertible starts at $106,100. (The phrase "without options" assumes knowledge that the M6 itself is an option.) Add-ons such as a heated steering wheel, black Merino leather seats, and an onboard navigation system can boost the price $4,000 or more. Standard equipment includes an additional $3,000 in federal gas-guzzler taxes.

That's because the M6 gets considerably less than 22.5 miles per gallon on the highway, below which the government begins taxing cars for excess fuel consumption. It's a simple formula—the poorer the fuel economy, the higher the tax.

The rear-wheel-drive M6 convertible, with its 5-liter, 500-horsepower, V-10 engine, sucks premium fuel at a rate that translates to 11 miles per gallon in the city and 17 miles per gallon on the highway, and it does that going at legally posted speeds. At extra-legal speeds, the driver might as well knock a hole in the fuel tank, it drains so fast.

Anyone who knows anything about BMW should not be upset about any of this. BMW is a legendary performance car company, maker of the world's "ultimate driving machines." People don't buy BMW for economy or fuel efficiency. They buy for power, speed and prestige. They want to make a statement.

I get it. But what bugs me about the M6 and other exotic cars is that the statement they make often amounts to a rolling contradiction. They are fast cars in a world slowly running out of the petroleum to propel them. The faster they go, the less they make sense.

The designers of the M6 are aware of this irony. The car can leap from 0 to 60 miles per hour in 4.5 seconds—even faster, according to some test-drive accounts. But it flashes a warning, dramatically displayed on the windshield via an optional head-up system, and sounds an alarm the moment the speedometer detects movement above 65 miles per hour.

"Speed Limit Exceeded," the red warning message says. It is accompanied by a gold circle with the similarly colored word "LIMIT" written inside in all caps.

It's a lawyer's gimmick, implemented to give BMW plausible deniability in anticipation of someone somewhere having the gumption to accuse the company of encouraging reckless driving. It is the moral equivalent of the "drink responsibly" tagline usually found at the end of beer commercials.

You can always drink more, although you shouldn't, especially if you are driving. In the M6, you certainly can go faster—putting its seven-speed transmission in either automatic or manual mode.

Manual mode is best. It has a higher fun factor. The car launches itself with giddy joy.

But it's an expensive treat. Filling the M6's 18.5-gallon tank for the 300-mile drive here from Virginia cost $93. I made it to my daughter's East Side garage with barely a quarter tank of fuel remaining.

It was a fun romp, enjoyed without the unpleasantness of another speeding ticket—frightfully easy to come by on Maryland's stretch of Interstate 95 and the New Jersey Turnpike.

But I found my thrill and had my fill. With apologies to musician Fats Domino, a fellow New Orleans native, I'm ready to abandon the fantasy of this particular Blueberry Hill and journey back home at a more moderate pace.

The M6 is a wild car. But in the future, if BMW or any other car company wants to impress me, show me one that goes from 0 to 60 miles per hour in four seconds and gets 60 miles per gallon. I'd take it without leather seats.

Car shoppers save money, time with 2009 Fuel Economy Guide

To help consumers make well-informed choices when purchasing new vehicles, EPA and the Department of Energy have unveiled the 2009 Fuel Economy Guide.

"With the new Fuel Economy Guide in hand, Americans now have the information they need to buy greener and cleaner cars and trucks," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "This valuable guide can help jump start any search for a better, more efficient automobile."

"Today new car buyers have more fuel efficient and alternative fuel options than ever before," Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman said. "Knowledge is power and this guide provides consumers with necessary information to make smart vehicle purchasing decisions that will save them money at the pump."

Fuel-efficient models come in all types and sizes, so consumers can save thousands of dollars over a vehicle's lifetime without sacrificing performance. Included in the 2009 fuel economy leaders are diesel vehicles certified to EPA's tightest emissions standards. Consumers now have access to the cleanest diesels ever available in the U.S. marketplace.

Each vehicle listing in the Fuel Economy Guide provides an estimated annual fuel cost. The online guide includes an interactive feature that allows consumers to insert their local gasoline prices and typical driving habits to receive a personalized fuel cost estimate. Fuel economy estimates now include the revised test methods implemented in model year 2008. These revised tests better reflect "real world" driving conditions and habits, including higher highway speed limits and use of accessories such as air conditioning.

For the first time, the Fuel Economy Guide is available to mobile users (fueleconomy.gov/m), and is readily accessible from a mobile device, smart phone, or personal digital assistant (or PDA). ***(EPA)***

ON THE NET

- More online sources with fuel economy information:

Joint DOE/EPA Fuel Economy website for detailed information on fuel economy, including a complete version of the Fuel Economy Guide to download: http://www.fueleconomy.gov

- Comprehensive information about EPA's Fuel Economy program: http://www.epa.gov/fueleconomy
- The Green Vehicle Guide website to locate the cleanest and most fuel efficient vehicles: http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles

The 2009 fuel economy leaders within each class as well as the lowest fuel economy models: http://www.epa.gov/fueleconomy/overall-high.htm

- Note: If a link above doesn't work, please copy and paste the URL into a browser.

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINT
The BMW M6 convertible and its sibling hardtop M6 coupe represent grand motorized excess.

RIDE, HANDLING, ACCELERATION
The M6 offers indisputably superior performance in all three categories. But your gas money evaporates in tandem with the car's speed.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
I drove the M6 on Wall Street post-bailout. The car drew longing glances. One gray-suited man looked at the car. I swear he was crying.

BODY STYLE/ LAYOUT
The M6 is a front-engine, rear-wheel-drive luxury performance convertible with a power-operated soft top. It is also available as a hardtop coupe.

ENGINE/ TRANSMISSION
The 5-liter, 40-valve, V-10 engine develops 500 horsepower at 7,750 revolutions per minute and 383 foot-pounds of torque at 6,100 rpm. The engine is mated to a seven-speed transmission that can be shifted automatically or manually.

CAPACITIES
There is comfortable seating for two people up front. The two rear seats are for tiny people on short trips. Cargo capacity is 12 cubic feet. The fuel tank holds 18.5 gallons of required premium unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE
This one makes some sport-utility vehicles look good. It gets 11 miles per gallon in the city and 17 miles per gallon on the highway—barely.

SAFETY
Standard equipment includes four-wheel disc brakes with antilock protection, electronic stability and traction control, side air bags, and active head restraints designed to reduce neck injuries in rear-end collisions.

PRICE
At this writing, the base price on the 2008 M6 convertible was $106,100. (The caveat is that the base price has been rising.) Dealer's invoice price on base model is $97,610. Price as tested is $117,420, including $7,495 in optional equipment (black Merino leather, carbon fiber trim, heated steering wheel, head-up display, premium sound system), a $3,000 federal gas-guzzler tax, and an $825 destination charge. Estimated dealer's price as tested is $108,200. Prices sourced from BMW, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
The M6 is a wonderful toy. But it should be sold with an oil well.

CRUISIN'

1968 Wildcat

By GREG ZYLA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Greg, I have a '68 Buick Wildcat with a 430-inch, four-barrel engine with 360 horsepower and only 70,000 miles. It is the desirable two-door hardtop, and the interior is all original and in pretty nice shape. The car was painted about three years ago and also is nice. Where is the best place to sell this car, and what price I should ask? Thanks for any help you can give me.—Tim, e-mail from Pennsylvania

A: Tim, you have a pretty nice car there in that Buick Wildcat. We checked several price guides for a base Wildcat, and depending on a few incidentals, the prices are $4,000 for a No. 3 condition two-door Wildcat coupe, which means it's a car that looks great from 20-feet away, but when you get closer you'll notice some wear here and there and maybe a ding or two. A fully restored Wildcat will go for about $11,500.

Look to sell your car with a classified ad in your area newspapers first, as most all papers also have an Internet presence nowadays. If you can't sell it locally, I'd recommend using magazines like Auto Roundup and Hemmings, both available on any newsstand.

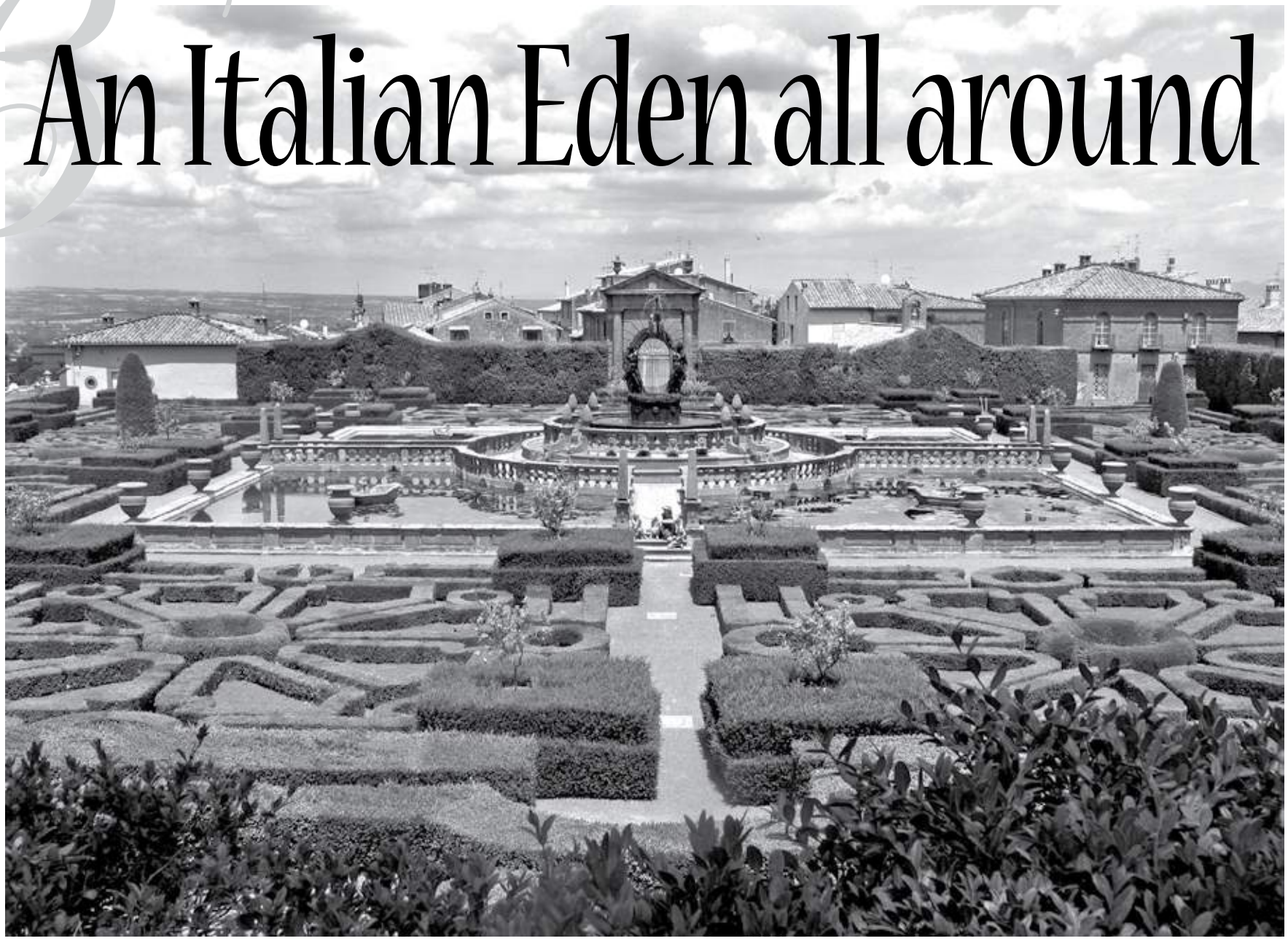
Also, as I say in all my columns when I give a price, the antique car business is much like the stock market in that it goes up and down, and you may get more or less for your car depending on buyer and seller demands and the economic mood at the time.

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

Life & Style

An Italian Eden all around

By SUSAN SPANO
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Villa Lante, created in the 16th century, unites flawless geometry and fantastical water features and landscaping to tell the tale of mankind's taming of nature.

BAGNAIA, Italy—I know how to get to paradise in this life.

It lies atop a hill about 60 miles north of Rome where a gentleman-cardinal built a garden in the 16th century. His architects created it from water and stone, green leaves and vine. But the result is more than the sum of its parts. Villa Lante embodies the humanist ideals of the Italian Renaissance.

Soon after I moved to Rome last spring, I began seeking out area gardens.

I took a Vatican Gardens tour to see the pope's beautiful back yard, and I saw the ingenious fountains at the Villa d'Este, about 20 miles east of Rome. I found secret havens in the city—the rose garden on the Aventine Hill, for one—and tagged along with a group of architecture students from Yale University to visit Villa Madama, in the hills northwest of the city.

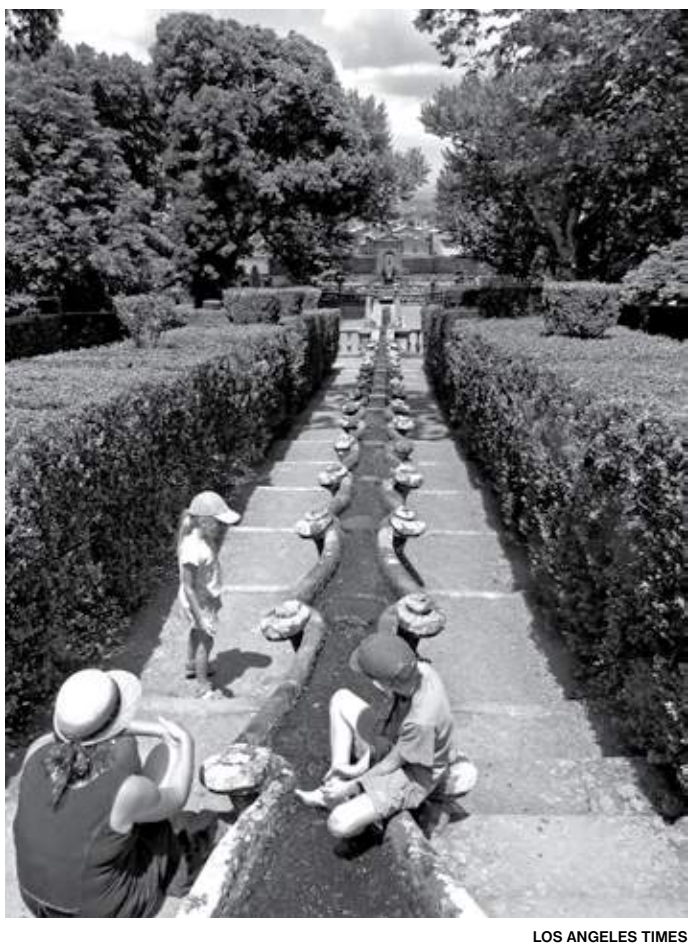
When summer's heat settled in, I fled the city almost every weekend, navigating a rental car to the Grande Raccordo Annulare, the ring road that encircles Rome. From there it was easy to find cool, green, consummately beautiful pieces of paradise.

In 1578, Cardinal Giovanni Francesco Gambara was suffering an attack of gout when Pope Gregory XIII arrived at the Villa Lante. When the pope saw Gambara's exquisite and obviously costly estate above the hamlet of Bagnaia, he canceled the cardinal's allowance.

It couldn't have been a good day for Gambara.

When I visited Villa Lante I was blessed in every way. On the drive from Rome, I followed the path of the Tiber River, lined by fields of golden, just-reaped summer hay.

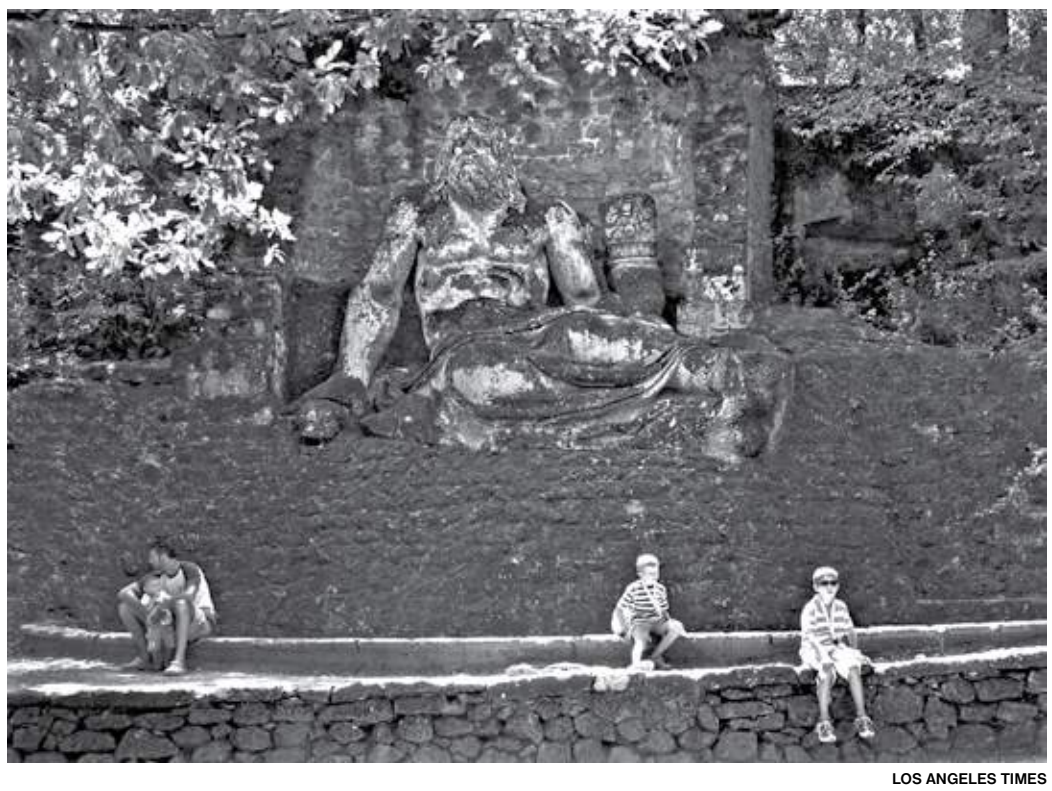
I turned off the highway near Orte into a landscape of volcanic hills, crater lakes and strange, eroded canyons. A winding country road took me to L'Ombricolo—which means "the little shady spot"—a bed-and-breakfast that occupies a tile-roofed farmhouse surrounded by sunflowers.



LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Chain Fountain adds another dimension to Villa Lante's play of water, cascading down to channels linked to other fountains along the property, where twin pavilions and terrace gardens also form a symbolic loop.

Source: ESRI
PAUL DUGINSKI *Los Angeles Times*



LOS ANGELES TIMES

A mossy stone giant seems to keep a watchful eye over Bomarzo, a privately owned property known as the "garden of the monsters."

Once I settled in, inn proprietor Dawne Alstrom gave me directions to Bomarzo, a garden as remarkable as Villa Lante in its own weird way.

I found Bomarzo, a privately owned "garden of monsters," as it's called, in a narrow, wooded valley about a 20-minute drive from L'Ombricolo. From the parking lot it looked like a cheesy tourist attraction featuring monumental statues of dragons and sphinxes set among the trees.

But once I ventured in, I realized something profoundly strange goes on in the woods at Bomarzo.

Stone colossi wrestle to the death in the dell.

An elephant pinions a Roman legionnaire in its trunk, and a precariously tilted house seems to totter at the edge of a terrace.

Around the bend, an ogre's head rears up, its wide-open maw revealing a tongue in the shape of a stone table, where visitors can picnic while being devoured.

Art historians attribute the bizarre stone gallery, created circa 1570 by Vicino Orsini, to the rise of the Mannerist style of art that evolved after the High Renaissance. But psychology might also explain it.

Orsini was a papal soldier who retired, disillusioned, from

Continued on Next Page

the wars that wracked the Italian peninsula in the 16th century. At Bomarzo, I like to think he used his still-intact prankish sense of humor to vanquish his demons.

Villa Lante is comparatively demure, intent on perfection, not astonishment—without the distraction of flowers—and unchangingly green through the seasons.

When I passed through the gate, I caught a strong whiff of freshly clipped boxwood from the parterres around the Fountain of the Moors on the lower level, the interlocking hedges shaped in spirals, squares and circles with little lemon trees peeking out.

Then I turned around and saw the chain of fountains that decorates the hill. Drawn from springs in the nearby San Valentino hills, the watercourse emerges from the highest grotto, known as the Fountain of the Flood, then vanishes and re-appears in pools and channels that flow between the two palazetti, or "little palaces."

There's the Fountain of the Dolphins, richly emblazoned with the Gambara crayfish crest; the scalloping Chain Fountain, as ramblingly beautiful as any mountain stream; the long Cardinal's Table, with troughs of running water that served as finger bowls for Gambara's dinner guests; and the classic Renaissance garden on the lowest terrace.

I read in Helena Attlee's "Italian Gardens" that, from top to bottom, Villa Lante tells the story of human evolution, beginning with the rustic Eden created by God at the Fountain of the Flood and climaxing in the perfect geometry of the lower parterres.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The fantastical stone gallery at Bomarzo is attributed to Vicino Orsini, circa 1570, and is said to be in the Mannerist style of art that evolved after the High Renaissance.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

A clock tower juts out from the medieval town of Bagnaia, home to the Villa Lante gardens.

To understand the garden's symbolism isn't to take any less sensual delight in it. I couldn't keep from dipping my toes in the cold, flowing water of the Chain Fountain. I ran my palms across the moss that clothes Villa Lante's stone nymphs and goddesses. I sat at the Cardinal's Table, half waiting for Gambara's liveried servants to serve lunch.

On another summer getaway, I stopped to see a garden in the medieval town of Ninfa, owned along with its hilltop neighbor Sermoneta by the noble Caetani family, which still has a palazzo in the historic center of Rome.

Ninfa, open to visitors on selected summer weekends, is a garden for wandering with a book and a dog, for lying in fresh-cut grass and dreaming, especially in April and May when the ornamental cherries blossom.

As it was, I saw Ninfa with a Caetani Foundation tour during the stultifying height of summer, when only a few pink roses lingered to suggest the garden's spring quintessence.

We entered near a spring-water lake that feeds the Ninfa River, saw fine old Holm oaks and white maples, then stopped at the ruined Church of Santa Maria Maggiore, where Pope Alexander III was crowned in 1159 after having been forced to leave Rome by supporters of Emperor Frederick I (known as Barbarossa).

Protected from extreme weather by the Lepini Mountains to the east and the ever-chilly Ninfa River, the 20-acre garden has myriad microclimates in which the Caetanis experimented with nonnative plants such as banana, bamboo and magnolias. In damp spots near the river, lilies thrive, and everywhere there are roses, climbing medieval ruins or preening in the walled garden.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

A monastic garden peeks out from the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, once a Roman amphitheater and one of the seven pilgrimage churches of Rome.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Bagnaia is set among rolling hills and vineyards, about an hour's drive north of Rome.

La Landriana is an estate a few miles north and inland from Anzio, on 25 acres of land left bare and mine-pocked after World War II. The Marquis Gallarati-Scotti and his wife, Lavinia Taverna, bought it at auction in 1956, and it remains the family's country home, receiving visitors by appointment only.

To see it, I booked a tour with Sue Webster, an English-speaking guide and avid gardener who lives nearby.

La Landriana's story starts with a bag of seeds given to the marquise by a friend, which she planted and watched spring up. After that, she ordered more plants native to the Mediterranean, Australia or California, according to her interest of the moment. A garden took shape, but without coherent form.

In 1967, she summoned English garden architect Russell Page to La Landriana.

Page was a devotee of Renaissance formal gardens, which were then out of style.

The relationship between Page and Taverna, who died in 1997, proved especially fruitful as the master brought order and subtlety to the passionate experimenter's diverse plant collection.

Page divided the hillside garden into 32 themed "rooms," as he called them, using Taverna's nurslings to create subtle artistic ensembles of texture, scent, shape and color. As a result, La Landriana is a gardener's garden, known among connoisseurs for its subtle design and unusual variety of plants.

Fashion critic Mr. Blackwell dies in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mr. Blackwell, the acerbic designer whose annual worst-dressed list skewered the fashion felonies of celebrities from Zsa Zsa Gabor to Britney Spears, has died. He was 86.

Blackwell died Sunday of complications from an intestinal infection, publicist Harlan Boll said.

Blackwell, whose first name was Richard, was a little-known dress designer when he issued his first tongue-in-cheek criticism of Hollywood fashion disasters for 1960 - long before Joan Rivers and others turned such ridicule into a daily affair.

Year after year, he would take Hollywood's reigning stars and other celebrities to task for failing to dress in what he thought was the way they should.

Being dowdy was bad enough, but the more outrageous clothing a woman wore, the more biting his criticism. He once said a reigning Miss America looked "like an armadillo with cornpads."

A few other examples:

■ Madonna: "The Bare-Bottomed Bore of Babylon."

■ Barbra Streisand: "She looks like a masculine Bride of Frankenstein."

■ Christina Aguilera: "A dazzling singer who puts good taste through the wardrobe wringer."

■ Meryl Streep: "She looks like a gypsy abandoned by a caravan."

■ Sharon Stone: "An over-the-hill Cruella DeVille."

■ Lindsay Lohan: "From adorable to deplorable."

■ Patti Davis: "Packs all the glamour of an old, worn-out sneaker."

■ Ann Margret: "A Hells Angel escapee who invaded the Ziegfeld Follies on a rainy night."

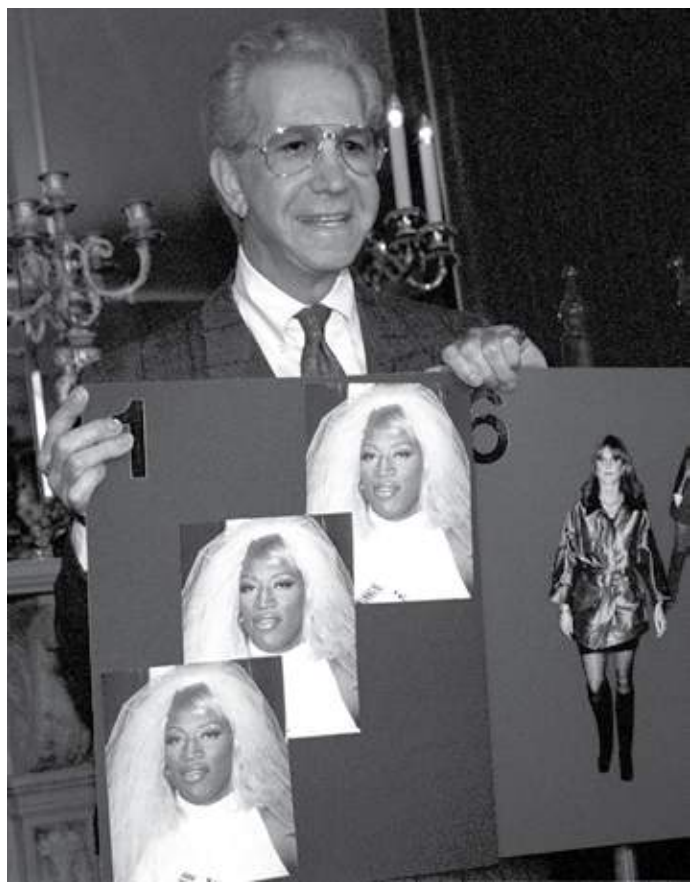
■ Camilla Parker-Bowles: "The Duchess of Dowdy."

■ Bjork: "She dances in the dark - and dresses there, too."

■ Spears: "Her bra-topped collection of Madonna rejects are pure fashion overkill."

The critic acknowledged he had mixed feelings about appearing so publicly mean. Most of the women he put through the wringer, he said, were people he genuinely admired for their talent if not their fashion sense.

"The list is and was a satirical look at the fashion flops of the year," he said in 1998. "I merely said out loud what others were whispering. ... It's not my intention to hurt the feelings of these people. It's to put down the clothing they're wearing."



AP

In a Jan. 14, 1996 file photo Mr. Blackwell announces his 37th Annual Worst Dressed Women List in Los Angeles.

He told the Los Angeles Times in 1968 that designers were forgetting that their job "is to dress and enhance women. ... Maybe I should have named the 10 worst designers instead of blaming the women who wear their clothes."

Surprisingly, the woman who topped his worst dressed list for 1982 (announced in early 1983) was the newly married Diana, Princess of Wales. He said she had gone from "a very young, independent, fresh look" to a "tacky, dowdy" style. She quickly regained her footing and wound up as a regular on Blackwell's favorites list, the "fabulous fashion independents."

Blackwell had started out as an actor himself, having been spotted by a talent agent while still in his teens. He landed a job as an understudy in the Broadway production of Sidney Kingsley's heralded drama "Dead End."

Although he got to the play the role of the Dead End Kids' leader on stage only one time, it led him to Hollywood where he landed bit parts in such films as "Little Tough Guy" (uncredited) and "Juvenile Hall" (as Dick Selzer).

He abandoned his acting career in 1958 after failing to make it in movies and switched to fashion design. He claimed to be the first to make designer jeans for women, and his salon had begun to attract a few Hollywood names when he issued his first list covering the fashion faux pas of 1960. (Italian star Anna Magnani and Gabor were among his early victims.)

It quickly brought him the celebrity he had long coveted, and he quickly became a favorite on the TV talk show circuit. He also became for a time, in his words, "The worst bitch in the world."

He hosted his own show, "Mr. Blackwell Presents," in 1968 and appeared as himself in such TV shows as "Matlock" and "Matt Houston."

In 1992, he sued Johnny Carson for claiming that he had added Mother Teresa to his list, saying the comment exposed him to hatred and ridicule. NBC's response was that the "Tonight Show" host was obviously joking.

"Did you see what he said about Mother Teresa? 'Miss Nerdy Nun is a fashion no-no,'" Carson had said. "Come on now, that's just too much."

During his heyday the issuing of Blackwell's annual list was an eagerly anticipated media event.

On the second Tuesday in January he would assemble reporters at his mansion for a lavish breakfast before making a dramatic entrance for the television cameras.

By the turning of the millennium, however, the list had lost its juice and Blackwell took to issuing it by e-mail.

Born Richard Sylvan Selzer in 1922, Blackwell recounted in his autobiography, "From Rags to Bitches," a troubled, poverty-ridden childhood in which he was variously a truant, thief and prostitute.

'Max Payne,' 'Chihuahua,' 'Bees' out-poll 'W'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Movie-goers elected a "W," but it was Mark Wahlberg, not George W. Bush.

Wahlberg's action flick "Max Payne" debuted with $18 million to outdo Oliver Stone's film biography of George W. Bush, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Stone's "W." actually ran fourth, opening with $10.6 million to finish behind the family comedy "Beverly Hills Chihuahua" (No. 2 with $11.2 million) and the chick flick "The Secret Life of Bees" (No. 3 with $11.1 million).

"For me, an Oliver Stone film about George Bush doesn't necessarily scream big box office," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Media By Numbers. "A film like this is very tough to gauge, but this is exactly what I thought it would do."

Lionsgate's "W.," starring Josh Brolin as Bush, came in well behind the $18.7 million debut of Stone's last movie, 2006's Sept. 11 saga "World Trade Center." That movie opened in nearly 3,000 theaters, about 900 more than "W.," however.

1. "Max Payne," $18 million.
2. "Beverly Hills Chihuahua," $11.2 million.
3. "The Secret Life of Bees," $11.1 million.
4. "W.," $10.6 million.
5. "Eagle Eye," $7.3 million.
6. "Body of Lies," $6.9 million.
7. "Quarantine," $6.3 million.
8. "Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist," $3.9 million.
9. "Sex Drive," $3.6 million.
10. "Nights in Rodanthe," $2.7 million.

Playing in 2,030 cinemas, "W." averaged a solid but unremarkable $5,197 a theater, compared with a $6,334 average for "World Trade Center." "W." was shot on a modest budget of $25 million.

The film had been on political junkies' radar since Stone put "W." on the fast track less than a year ago so he could have it out before the November election. Stone started shooting in May, his five-month turnaround time remarkably short by Hollywood standards, where major movies can take a year or more.

If he needed more time, Stone contractually had the option of releasing the film around the time Bush leaves office in January.

But with two weeks until the election, this is prime time for a Bush biography, said Steve Rothenberg, Lionsgate head of distribution.

"We felt it was very important to release the film after the presidential debates but before the election," Rothenberg said. "We felt interest in the election would be at its height, and interest in George W. Bush would be much greater now than after January. We feel we have a good corridor over the next two weeks."

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Max Payne

Friday		4:25	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:30	
Mon and Tue		4:25	7:30	

Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Max Payne is a maverick cop—a mythic anti-hero—determined to track down those responsible for the brutal murders of his family and partner. Hell-bent on revenge, his obsessive investigation takes him on a nightmare journey into a dark underworld. As the mystery deepens, Max is forced to battle enemies beyond the natural world and face an unthinkable betrayal.

Igor

Friday		4:10	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:25	
Mon and Tue		4:10	7:25	

Steve Busceni (v), Jay Leno (v)
Comedy, Animated • Rated PG

Synopsis
In a land of mad scientists and diabolical inventions, what do you do when you're born with a hunch on your back? You become an Igor. A twist on the classic monster movie, that tells the story of one Igor—who's sick of being a lowly lab assistant with a "Yes Master's" degree—and dreams of becoming a scientist. When his cruel master kicks the bucket a week before the annual Evil Science Fair, Igor finally gets his chance.

★ ★ ★

Body of Lies

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:20	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:20	
Mon and Tue		4:30	7:20	

Leonardo DiCaprio, Russel Crowe
Thriller, Adaptation • Rated R

Synopsis
Roger Ferris is the best man U.S. Intelligence has on the ground, in places where human life is worth no more than the information it can get you. In operations that take him around the globe, Ferris' next breath often depends on the voice at the other end of a secure phone line—CIA veteran Ed Hoffman. Strategizing from a laptop in the suburbs, Hoffman is on the trail of an emerging terrorist leader who has orchestrated a campaign of bombings while eluding the most sophisticated intelligence network in the world.

The Express

Friday		4:00	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:00	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:15	4:00	7:10	
Mon and Tue		4:00	7:10	

Dennis Quaid, Rob Brown
Drama, Biopic • Rated PG 13

Beverly Hills Chihuahua

Friday		4:05	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:05	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:05	7:00	
Mon and Tue		4:05	7:00	

Drew Barrymore (v), Andy Garcia (v)
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG

Quarantine

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:15	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:15	
Mon and Tue		4:15	7:15	

Jennifer Carpenter, Jay Hernandez
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13

Eagle Eye

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Mon and Tue		4:20	7:05	

Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
Drama • Rated PG 13

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Palin draws big ratings for 'SNL'

NEW YORK (AP)—The entertainment summit of the season—Sarah Palin and her impersonator, Tina Fey—earned "Saturday Night Live" its best ratings in 14 years. But if you blinked, you might have missed it.

Fey was answering questions at a news conference, something Palin hasn't done yet as the Republican vice presidential nominee, when Palin walked on the stage. Fey beat a hasty retreat in the opening segment, walking past the real Palin with a barely perceptible nod.

If anyone was hoping for a side-by-side photo of the identically dressed women, they were out of luck.

Palin's guest shot, widely anticipated since Fey began imitating her a month ago, led "Saturday Night Live" to its highest mark in overnight Nielsen Media Research ratings since March 1994, when assaulted skater Nancy Kerrigan was guest host.

Although a complete audience estimate for the rest of the country won't be available until later in the week, it is likely to be around 14 million.

For the first half-hour, when Palin first came out, the audience was about 17 million. That's pretty impressive for a TV program around midnight. The week before, only two other shows in prime time had a bigger audience, Nielsen said.

Palin told WWOR-TV in New York in an interview Sunday that she had a great time—but did not attend the after-party.

"I would do that again in a heartbeat," she said. "It was the most welcoming and friendly environment that you could imagine. Everyone was so nice, and you know, you have to have a sense of humor through all of this. You have to have some levity through this. Otherwise, it would really, I think, grind on you and wear you out."

AP
Republican vice-presidential candidate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, campaigns during a rally in Lancaster, Pa., Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008.

In the show's opening, Fey's Palin said at a news conference: "First off, I just want to say how excited I am to be in front of both the liberal elite media, as well as the liberal regular media. I am looking forward to a portion of your questions."

Moments later, the camera cut away to the real Palin watching a television monitor alongside the show's executive producer, Lorne Michaels.

Palin stood quietly as Fey's "30 Rock" co-star Alec Baldwin came by, mistook Palin for Fey and pleaded with Michaels not to let the actor go onstage with the governor.

"This is the most important election in our nation's history and you want her, our Tina, to go out there and stand with that horrible woman?" Baldwin said.

When Michaels introduced him to Palin, Baldwin feigned embarrassment and replied: "I see. Forgive me. I feel I must say this: You are way hotter in person."

Palin got even, saying: "Thank you, and I must say, your brother Stephen is my favorite Baldwin brother." Stephen Baldwin is a born-again Christian who attended the Republican national convention in 2004.

Madonna's publicist: No settlement finalized

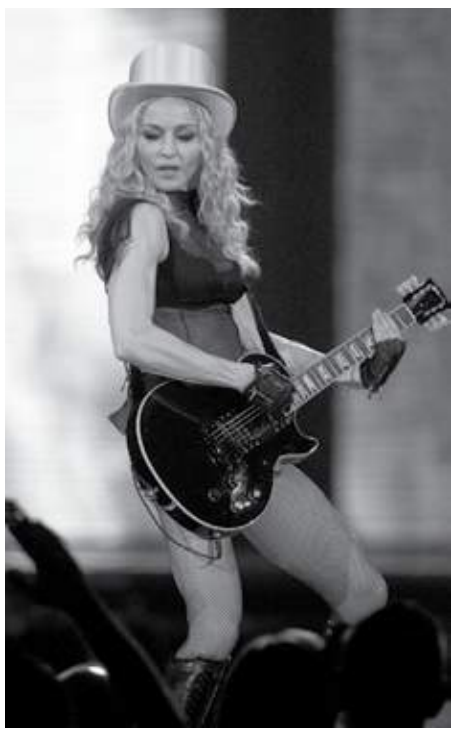
LONDON (AP)—Madonna's divorce settlement with her estranged husband Guy Ritchie has yet to be finalized, the singer's publicist said Sunday.

The Sun and The Mail on Sunday reported that the two had struck a deal over their finances and how to split their property. The Mail also reported that they had agreed to a custody arrangement for the couple's children.

In a brief e-mail message sent to The Associated Press, Liz Rosenberg said she would not be commenting on media reports that the pop star and her film director husband had reached or were about to agree on how to share the couple's multimillion dollar fortune and custody of their children.

"I will not be commenting on the various reports regarding the divorce or of the settlement which has not been finalized," Rosenberg said. A statement from Guy Ritchie's representatives in London also declined comment.

Madonna and Ritchie announced their separation Wednesday after nearly eight years of marriage and Britain's tabloid press has speculated wildly on the outcome of the high-profile split.



AP
Madonna appears on stage at Toronto's Air Canada Centre, as part of her north American tour, on Saturday Oct. 18, 2008.

Madonna and Ritchie married in December 2000 at a castle in Scotland. The couple are reportedly worth around $525 million, the bulk of that belonging to Madonna. Ritchie has an estimated $35 million fortune. They own homes in London, Los Angeles and New York, and a 1,200-acre retreat in Wiltshire, England.

The couple have two children: Rocco, 8, and David Banda, 3, who was adopted in Malawi in 2006. Madonna also has a 12-year-old daughter, Lourdes, from her relationship with personal trainer Carlos Leon.

Liza Minnelli plays Broadway's Palace in December

NEW YORK (AP)—Liza Minnelli will return to Broadway in December for the first time in nearly a decade in a two-week engagement of "Liza's at the Palace."

Minnelli will play the legendary vaudeville house Dec. 3-14, producer John Scher announced Sunday. She will be accompanied by pianist-musical supervisor Billy Stritch, a 12-piece orchestra and four dancer-singers.

The show will feature some of Minnelli's best-known songs, particularly numbers such as "Cabaret," "Maybe This Time" and "New York, New York," all written by John Kander and Fred Ebb.

It will also celebrate Kay Thompson, Minnelli's godmother and an entertainer who appeared in such films as "Funny Face" and who was a vocal arranger and vocal coach at MGM during the Golden Age of movie musicals in the 1940s. Thompson also wrote the "Eloise" children's books about a little girl who lived in the Plaza hotel in New York.

"Liza's at the Palace" will be directed and choreographed by Ron Lewis.

Minnelli's last Broadway appearance was in December 1999 in another entertainment at the Palace, a show that honored her father, film director Vincente Minnelli. Her other Broadway appearances include "Flora, The Red Menace" (1965), "The Act" (1977) and "The Rink" (1984). Her films include "The Sterile Cuckoo" (1969), "Cabaret" (1972), "New York, New York" (1977) and "Arthur" (1981).

Minnelli's mother, Judy Garland, also appeared several times at the Palace, most notably in 1951 in a one-woman show that ran for more than 200 performances.

Sean Penn visits Chavez for 2nd time

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—U.S. actor Sean Penn is visiting Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez - again.

Venezuela's state-run news agency reports that Penn accompanied Chavez during the inspection of a natural gas pipeline on Sunday.

Chavez has praised Penn for his criticism of the U.S. war in Iraq, but he did not mention Penn's visit during a televised address. Nor did state media broadcast images of the Oscar-winning actor.

It was Penn's second meeting with Chavez. The actor also visited in August 2007, when he went as a freelance journalist.

Chavez has hosted visits by several Hollywood stars including actors Danny Glover and Kevin Spacey. British supermodel Naomi Campbell visited last year, expressing support for Chavez's efforts to help the poor.

Exasperated voter is besieged by offensive political e-mail

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: Once again, e-mails are flying at record speed with "information" about the Democratic or Republican candidates. I am not talking about the funny ones that are meant in good humor, but serious, derogatory accusations.

Can you please explain to me why friends would just assume that I want to read their forwarded messages? Not once has any of them asked who I'm voting for. They have never even asked which party I belong to.

I believe that politics and religion are personal choices, and I'm extremely offended when I receive these e-mails. I have ignored them in the past, but with the upcoming election, I'm asking what would be an appropriate response to these unwanted e-mails. Isn't freedom of choice—without having people ram their opinion down your throat—what has made America great? Thanks for any light on this subject.

HENDERSON, NEV., VOTER

DEAR VOTER: The individuals who send those offensive e-mails may be hoping to sway your vote with misinformation. Or they may have you on a mass e-mail list included as a "friend" or "family member."

Feeling as you do, you have two choices. Tell the sender that you feel the messages are inappropriate and ask to be removed from that person's list, or simply delete the message without opening it.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My sister, "Carole," has been saying for five years that she's going to kill herself when she's 65. She lives alone, her children are grown and she has a limited income. She told me she wants to go while she is in possession of her faculties. She doesn't want to get sick and die in a nursing home.

Of course I have tried to talk her out of it, but as the years have progressed, I realize that Carole is serious. She has been tying up loose ends and fixing up her house so that her daughter will inherit something nice.

Carole refuses counseling and actually seems happier since making her decision. Sometimes, after one of our deep discussions, she almost has me convinced that I'm a fool for not wanting to follow her path.

This is her last year, and I'm feeling increasingly anxious. I wonder if there isn't an avenue I haven't yet explored. Carole is pretty, healthy, walks with a jaunt in her step and holds a good job. I have talked to a suicide-prevention counselor who said some people can't be stopped and that it's no crime to THINK about suicide. Any ideas?

SISTER WITH A HEAVY HEART

DEAR SISTER: Has anyone pointed out to Carole that 65 is the new 45? I can understand the concept of rational suicide if someone is terminally ill and in constant pain, but to go in the full flower of life strikes me as premature.

You say your sister has spoken to you about this for the past several years. How do her children feel about it? Surely, this can't have their blessing.

I can't "save" Carole and neither can you—but it occurs to me that the reason she really wants to go is because she has nothing that keeps her invested in living. Even if she doesn't value her own life, she needs to know that others do.

P.S. People can be committed for observation if they are considered a danger to themselves or others—and your sister may qualify.

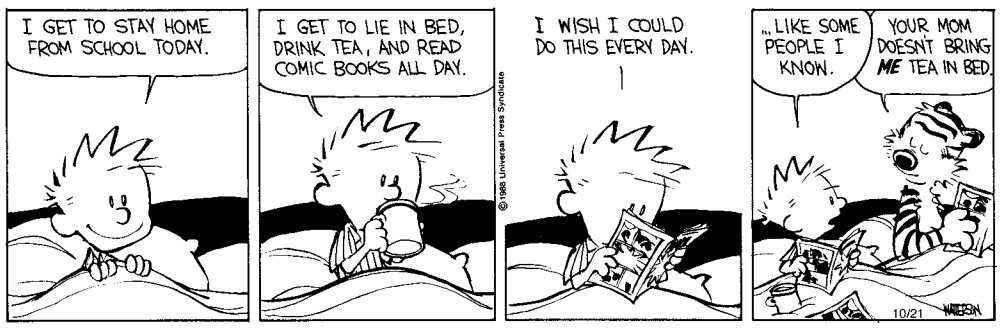
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I GET TO STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL TODAY.
I GET TO LIE IN BED, DRINK TEA, AND READ COMIC BOOKS ALL DAY.
I WISH I COULD DO THIS EVERY DAY.
...LIKE SOME PEOPLE I KNOW.
YOUR MOM DOESN'T BRING ME TEA IN BED.
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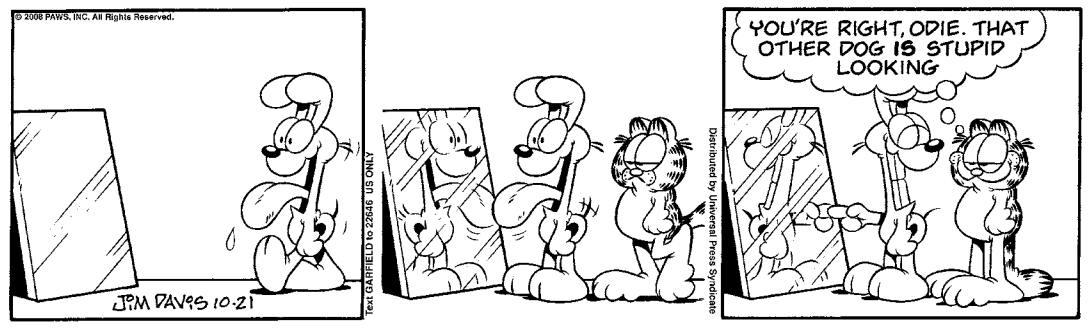
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I CAN'T REMEMBER WHERE YOU PARKED.
NO PROB. I JUST HIT THIS BUTTON AND LISTEN.
OH, IS THAT ONE OF THOSE BUTTONS THAT BEEPS YOUR HORN?
NO. IT ACTIVATES FANG'S SHOCK COLLAR.
OW!! OW!!
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Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

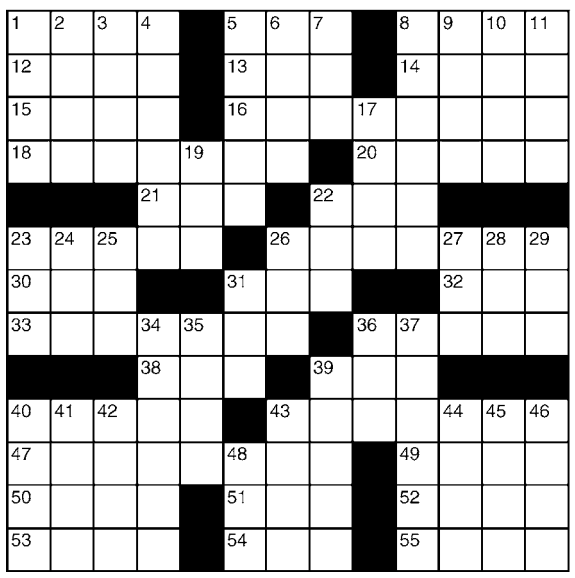
ACROSS
1 Body powder
5 Heart chart (Abbr.)
8 Heavy reading
12 — -friendly
13 That woman
14 Mimic
15 Boyfriend
16 Lincoln biographer
18 Bedtime visitor
20 Facilitates
21 Parched
22 Way out there
23 Approves
26 Happy Gilmore portrayer
30 Lair
31 Bushy-tailed critter
32 Raw rock
33 KFC colonel
36 Stick in the mud?
38 Whatever number
39 Old New Zealand bird
40 "A Bell for —"
43 Summer footwear
47 Dagwood's specialty
49 Coagulate
50 "American —"
51 West of Hollywood
52 "— Named Sue"
53 Top-rated
54 Schedule abbr.
55 Window sheet

DOWN
1 Vats
2 Cruising
3 Tilt
4 Gunky
5 English homework, maybe
6 "Star Trek II" villain
7 Army bigwig (Abbr.)
8 Knight's tunic
9 Piece of work
10 Unembellished
11 Work units
17 College boss
19 "— Doubtfire"
22 Transmit quickly
23 "— bodkins!"
24 Mauna —
25 Raggedy doll
26 "Mayday!"
27 High shot
28 Before
29 Scarlet
31 Sauté
34 Bounce playfully
35 Sufficient, in verse
36 A billion years
37 Wild and crazy
39 "Real Time" moderator
40 Europe's neighbor
41 Pedestal part
42 In due time
43 Cicatrix
44 Actress Jessica
45 Symbol of craziness
46 Eyelid woe
48 "— little teapot ..."

Solution time: 21 mins.

C	H	U	M	■	I	D	S	■	A	D	A	M
L	I	S	A	■	N	E	E	■	M	E	S	A
A	R	E	S	■	S	C	R	A	T	C	H	Y
P	E	D	A	N	T	■	A	R	R	O	Y	O
■	■	■	L	E	A	P	■	F	A	R	■	■
S	C	R	A	W	L	E	D	■	K	A	N	T
A	P	E	■	S	L	A	I	N	■	T	O	Y
W	A	S	H	■	S	C	R	A	P	E	R	S
■	■	T	A	R	■	H	E	R	O	■	■	■
P	E	O	R	I	A	■	N	Y	M	P	H	S
S	C	R	A	M	B	L	E	■	M	E	A	L
S	H	E	S	■	L	A	S	■	E	R	G	O
T	O	S	S	■	E	D	S	■	L	U	S	T

Yesterday's answer 10-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jeremy Miller 32, Carrie Fisher, 52; Benjamin Netanyahu, 59; Judge Judy Sheindlin, 66

Happy Birthday: The sensitive issues that you must go through will give you the ability to purge all the dead weight you've been carrying around. Make a list of the important things, people and plans you have and you can begin the process of elimination. Once you clear a space in your heart and home, you will be able to begin again. Your numbers are 3, 11, 16, 26, 28, 34, 49

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Engage in business trips or meetings, networking or anything that gets you talking and planning your next great adventure. Your ability to quickly finish what you start will stabilize your position. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Finish what needs to be completed before enjoying more pleasurable activities. If you aren't productive, someone will point out your short coming and make you look bad. Don't put love before productivity. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Love is in the stars, so consider who from your past you are still thinking about. Now is the time to see if there is still a spark and if you can make things work this time. If you don't satisfy your curiosity, you won't be able to move forward. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Business savvy coupled with a little Cancer charm and you will be well on your way to making the few changes important to your success. Don't send someone else to do a job you should handle yourself. An impression can only be made if you take a hands-on approach. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You cannot move on until you take care of pending issues, especially if they are emotional. Worrying will not solve the problem but making changes will. No one will expect you to react so fast but time is what's important, so give it your best shot. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): If someone is giving you a hard time at home, nip it quickly. Occupy your mind with something you enjoy doing. A new hobby or past time will bring you pleasure and redirect your energy from anger to new possibilities. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You cannot get along if you are dissatisfied with everything and everyone. Step back and consider what's really causing you all the grief. Chances are good you are unhappy with your personal choices. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): If you haven't put in the time, don't expect to reap the rewards. Anything short of expertise and precision will not develop into what you want. Don't allow interference from others. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): It's time to collect what is owed to you. The emotional and physical difference it will make will be insurmountable and will help build your confidence. Don't give in to force plays or anyone trying to put one over on you. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Work alongside someone in order to form a good and meaningful partnership. If you try to take over, you will set a poor example for the future. You may not like what you hear today but do not tamper with others' plans. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Go after what you want with fervor and you will convince someone important to help you out. Make some inquiries into potential money-making options. Don't spend before you get it. Living on credit will not get you ahead. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): If you present your game plan to someone who is a go-getter, you will receive all the help you need to move forward. Don't let love stand in your way. Follow through with your financial and professional plans. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, caring, affectionate, appealing and approachable. You surround yourself with friends who share your motivation and inspiration.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7						9	
6		1				2		5
	3		5		7		4	
		7	8		9	3		
				5				
		2	6		1	7		
	4		9		5		3	
5		9				4		6
	1						2	

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	2	1	6	7	9	4	8	3
3	9	6	5	4	8	2	7	1
7	8	4	1	2	3	6	9	5
9	1	5	8	6	2	7	3	4
2	4	8	3	9	7	1	5	6
6	7	3	4	5	1	9	2	8
4	5	7	9	3	6	8	1	2
1	3	9	2	8	4	5	6	7
8	6	2	7	1	5	3	4	9

Difficulty Level ★ 10/20

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE AVERAGE DAY OF A SERGEANT MAJOR **Solution: 8 letters**

S	S	G	M	I	S	E	R	U	D	E	C	O	R	P
N	N	D	U	T	I	E	S	E	R	O	H	C	Y	A
O	V	O	R	A	D	R	E	S	S	C	D	T	T	S
I	A	E	I	O	R	O	L	E	O	E	I	A	E	T
T	L	S	T	T	C	D	C	M	P	L	D	G	F	A
A	U	T	A	I	C	E	M	O	I	E	D	N	A	N
D	E	R	S	N	L	A	R	B	N	I	F	I	Ⓢ	D
N	S	O	K	U	N	T	I	T	E	T	O	D	Ⓔ	A
E	G	P	S	D	M	S	H	N	S	O	R	L	Ⓔ	R
M	N	E	R	E	N	U	E	T	R	A	M	O	Ⓚ	D
M	I	R	N	O	S	R	R	D	N	T	A	H	L	H
O	T	T	P	I	G	I	E	K	A	R	L	P	Y	C
C	E	S	A	Y	V	R	V	C	O	N	D	U	C	T
E	E	S	R	E	V	O	A	D	R	I	L	L	S	A
R	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	M	A	N	A	G	E	W

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Yesterday's Answer: Picketing

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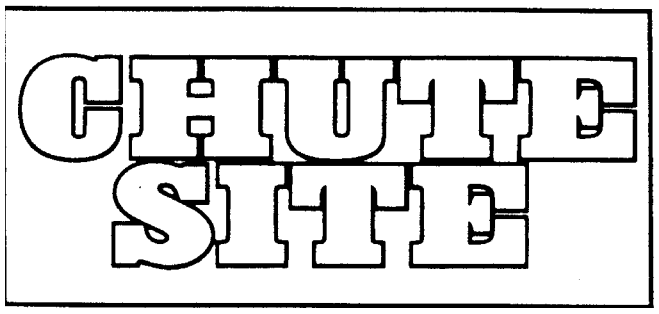

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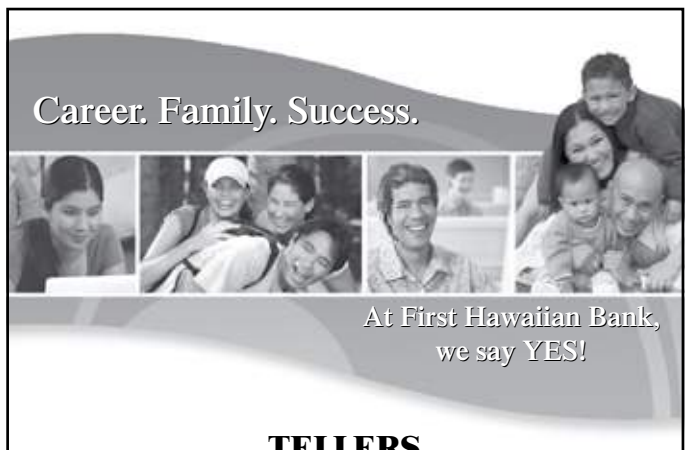
Find today's solution in this section



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Rays beat Bosox 3-1, advance to World Series

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Down to their last chance, the Tampa Bay Rays left no doubt they were World Series-worthy, after all. The young Rays completed a stunning run to their first pennant, holding off the defending champion Boston Red Sox 3-1 Sunday night behind Matt Garza's masterful pitching in Game 7 of the AL championship series.

The Rays nearly let it slip away when they blew a seven-run lead late in Game 5 and lost meekly Saturday night. But when rookie David Price struck out J.D. Drew with the bases loaded to end the eighth inning, Tampa Bay showed it had plenty of resolve, too.

"It's unbelievable," center fielder B.J. Upton said. "We battled a lot of adversity this year. We stuck together as a team."

Baseball's doormat since starting play in 1998, the Rays were a 200-1 shot to win the World Series before the season started. Now, they'll host the Philadelphia Phillies in Game 1 Wednesday night.

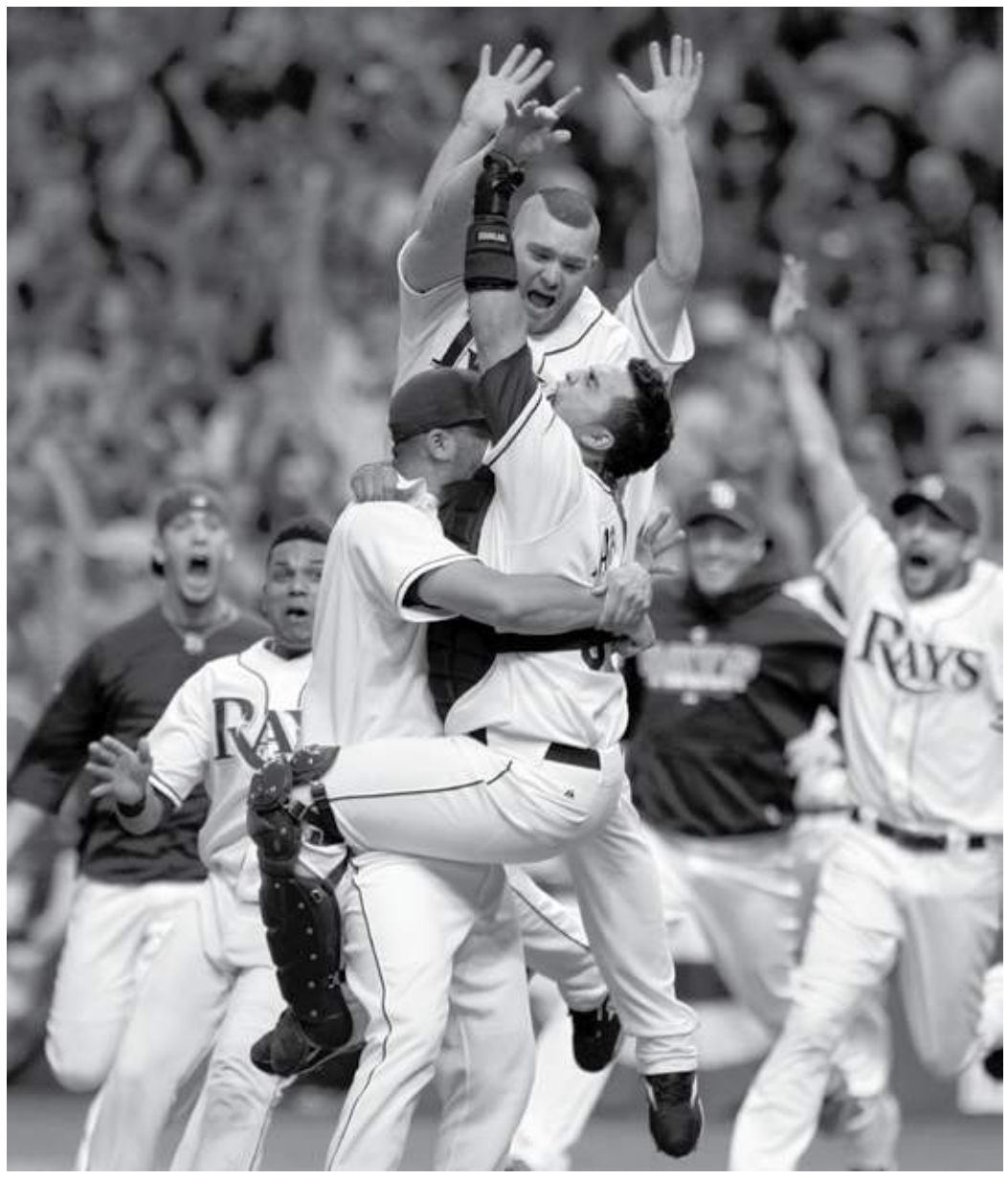
Garza beat Boston twice in a week and was picked as the MVP.

"As a kid I think everybody pictures this night," he said. "Usually it's Game 7 of the World Series but I'll take Game 7 of the ALCS."

Willy Aybar homered and Evan Longoria and Rocco Baldelli also drove in runs to support Garza. Acquired in an offseason trade with Minnesota, Garza limited the Red Sox to Dustin Pedroia's first-inning home run.

Four more wins and manager Joe Maddon's bunch will become the first team to go from worst in the majors to World Series champion in just one season.

The Red Sox were hoping to win their third crown in five years.



AP

Tampa Bay Rays pitcher David Price, left, is hugged by catcher Dioner Navarro after defeating the Boston Red Sox 3-1 to win the American League baseball championship series in Game 7 in St. Petersburg, Fla., Sunday, Oct. 19, 2008.

"We didn't get as far as we wanted," Boston manager Terry Francona said. "We came out to win and go to the World Series and we didn't accomplish that."

Longoria's fourth-inning double off Jon Lester tied it at 1-all. Baldelli's RBI single put the Rays ahead in the fifth after Aybar doubled and Dioner Navarro reached on an infield single.

Garza took the mound for the biggest game of his life with something, perhaps cotton balls, stuffed in his ears to help drown out the noise at sold-out Tropicana Field.

The 24-year-old right-hander struck out nine before shortstop Jason Bartlett booted Alex Cora's ground ball for an error, leading off a tense eighth.

Boston went on to load the bases when Kevin Youkilis drew a two-out walk. Price, the No. 1 pick in the 2007 draft, became the fifth Tampa Bay pitcher of the inning—quite a spot for someone who started the year in Class A.

Drew, who capped the Game 5 rally with a ninth-inning single, struck out with a check-swing on a 97 mph fastball to end the threat. Price worked around a leadoff walk in the ninth and when pinch-hitter Jed Lowrie grounded out, the celebration began.

"I wanted the ball," Price said. "I think everybody down there in the 'pen wanted the ball tonight."

The Rays dropped the "Devil" from their name before the season and came out with a new identity: Gone were the laughable losers who finished last in the AL East in nine of their first 10 seasons, the snowbird specials whose quirky Tropicana Field filled with transplanted Bostonians whenever the Red Sox visited.

After splitting the first two games of the series at home, though, it was Tampa Bay that made itself at home in an opponent's ballpark, with the Rays sending shot after shot sailing over the Green Monster. In all, the Rays outscored the Red Sox 29-13 in the three games at Fenway Park, hitting 10 home runs.

But the young Rays' postseason inexperience showed in Game 5, when a normally reliable bullpen blew a 7-0 lead over the last three innings, allowing Boston to save its season with an 8-7 victory.

The Red Sox were the eighth team to rally from a 3-1 deficit to force Game 7 of an LCS, and they're the only club to do it more than once. The Red Sox also battled back in 1986, 2004 and 2007, and went on to win the World Series the last two times.

With the tarps covering nearly 5,800 seats in the upper deck removed for the second straight night, more than 40,000 fans packed the domed stadium for a rematch of the starting pitchers from Game 3, won by Tampa Bay 9-1 at Fenway Park.

Many fans wore Red Sox gear and were even more noticeable when they stood and cheered as Pedroia circled the bases after lining a pitch into the left-field stands. But there would be little for the Boston faithful to cheer the rest of the night.

No team has repeated as World Series champion since the New York Yankees won three straight from 1998-2000. That mark is safe for another year.

Rays pitcher Matt Garza wins ALCS MVP award

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Matt Garza's promising first season with the Tampa Bay Rays just got even better.

Garza shut down the Boston Red Sox in Game 7 of the AL championship series Sunday night, leading Tampa Bay to its first pennant and earning the MVP award.

He allowed one run and two hits over seven-plus innings in Tampa Bay's 3-1 victory in the clinching game. He went 2-0 with a 1.38 ERA in two starts in the series.

"I took today's game just like another game in June," he said. "That's the only way I could do it."

Garza got off to an ominous start when Dustin Pedroia, the second batter of the game, homered into the left-field seats. Garza threw down the resin bag and told himself what he needed to do.

"Just calm down," he said.

"Take one pitch at a time," he said. "I just told myself, that's it. I can't give up anything more."

And that was all the Red Sox got.

"He gave us fits. He gave us nothing out there," Boston manager Terry Francona said.

The 6-foot-4 right-hander was one of several Rays who could've walked away with the series MVP award. B.J. Upton hit four homers and drove in 11 runs, Evan Longoria set an ALCS record by homering in four straight games and Carlos Pena went deep three times.

Garza wound up with the trophy.

"I didn't know if today was my last start of the year or what, so I just went out there and emptied my tank and said hey, here goes, we'll see what happens," he said.

He will indeed get another start this year, against the Philadelphia Phillies in the World Series.

The Rays acquired Garza and slick-fielding shortstop Jason Bartlett last offseason in a six-player deal that sent Delmon Young to Minnesota. Both Rays played key roles in the run to the AL East title.

Garza admitted Sunday that when the trade was made "I was disappointed for a while."

Those feelings changed in spring training.

"The guys took me in with open arms and said, 'Hey, you're a piece of this puzzle that we're going to put together.'"

Garza was shaky in his first postseason start, allowing five runs and seven hits over six innings against the Chicago White Sox in the division series. He got the decision in Tampa Bay's only loss in the first round.

He bounced back against Boston, yielding just one run in six-plus innings in the Rays' 9-1 victory in Game 3 at Fenway Park.

Garza, the Twins' first-round draft pick in 2005 out of Fresno State, went 11-9 with a 3.70 ERA this season for Tampa Bay. His 30 starts and 184 2-3 innings were more than he pitched in his first two years combined.

He had enough left for 118 pitches Sunday night. He struck out nine and walked three.

"He was a stallion tonight," Rays manager Joe Maddon said. "He did everything he could, and I'm so proud of him and what he's done this year and how far he's come."

Marc Turnesa completes wire-to-wire victory in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Marc Turnesa completed a wire-to-wire victory for his first PGA Tour title, closing with a 4-under 68 on Sunday to hold off Matt Kuchar by a stroke in the Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

The fourth rookie to win on the PGA Tour this season, Turnesa opened with rounds of 62, 64 and 69 at TPC Summerlin en route to a tournament-record 25-under 263 total. He earned a career-best $738,000 to jump from 138th to 75th on the money list.

Turnesa birdied Nos. 9, 11, 12 and 14 to reach 25 under on the mostly sunny, breezy day. He also birdied the par-3 17th, but dropped a stroke on the par-4 18th.

"I only won by a shot, so obviously every birdie I made was important," said Turnesa, the 30-year-old former North Carolina State star who broke the event mark of 23-under 264 set last year by George McNeill.

Kuchar finished with a 64.

Former UNLV star Chad Campbell shot a 67 to tie for third at 22 under with John Mallinger (68) and 49-year-old Michael Allen (70). Tim Herron (62) and Davis Love III (67) followed at 21 under in the Fall Series event.

Kuchar, the second-round co-leader who began the final round at 19 under, birdied the par-5 13th and par-3 14th to take the lead at 24 under, but finished with four straight pars to fall a stroke back.

"It started playing hard on the last couple holes," Kuchar said. "The wind really started picking up. Fifteen and 16 are definitely birdie holes that I missed opportunities on. But into the wind with some tough pins, I'm just not quite long enough (on the par-4 15) to get quite all the way there into the wind.

"Sixteen, had a layup. It was certainly an opportunity from 110 yards. I missed one short putt on the first hole—about a 6-footer for birdie. Other than that, I played some pretty solid golf."

Turnesa, the 2007 Miccosukee Championship winner on the Nationwide Tour, also led after three rounds last month in the Viking Classic, but made a late double bogey and ended up losing to Will MacKenzie on the second hole of a playoff.

"It was disappointing. But you know what, I did the best I could and it didn't work out. The same thing could have easily happened here today," Turnesa said. "You just got to get over it and move on. There's tournaments every week out here and you just got to take the positive out of it and move on."

Turnesa is part of a famous golf family. His great-uncle, Jim, won the 1952 PGA Championship, and his grandfather, Mike, was a six-time winner on the PGA Tour who finished second to Ben Hogan in the 1948 PGA Championship.

Mike was one of seven brothers, six of whom played on PGA Tour. One of those, Joe, was a 15-time PGA Tour winner. The only brother who didn't turn professional was Willie, the 1938 and 1948 U.S. Amateur champion and 1947 British Amateur winner.

"I don't really feel like I'm carrying on a name," Turnesa said. "I guess I am without even thinking about it. I'm just trying to play golf as best I can and that's all I can really do."

Romo-less Cowboys lose to Rams, 34-14

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Steven Jackson ran for 160 yards on 25 carries with three touchdowns and the St. Louis Rams looked like contenders instead of sad sacks for the second straight game under new coach Jim Haslett in a surprisingly easy 34-14 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday.

Cowboys quarterback Brad Johnson couldn't keep up with a suddenly potent, opportunistic offense, throwing three interceptions.

The Rams (2-4) won 19-17 at Washington last week in their first game since replacing Scott Linehan, ending a run of 17 losses in 20 games and four blowout losses to start the season. Their response to Haslett, beginning his second stint as a head coach, has exceeded expectations.

St. Louis' defense did its part, forcing four turnovers for the second straight game.

Cowboys linebacker DeMarcus Ware tied an NFL record with a sack in his 10th straight game and enjoyed his first multiple sack game of the season with three, giving him nine on the season.

Bears 48, Vikings 41

At Chicago, Kyle Orton threw two touchdown passes and special teams chipped in with two more.

Chicago (4-3) intercepted Gus Frerotte four times even though its injury-riddled secondary was missing starting cornerbacks Nathan Vasher and Charles Tillman and nickel back Danieal Manning. The Bears also lost star kick returner Devin Hester to a quad injury in the third quarter, yet Chicago still managed to put up its most points since beating Tampa Bay 48-14 at home on Dec. 7, 1986. It was the most points the Bears allowed in a win.

Raiders 16, Jets 13,OT

At Oakland, California, Sebastian Janikowski bailed out Oakland coach Tom Cable in his home debut as Raiders coach.

Janikowski's team-record 57-yard field goal with 2:30 left in overtime won it. The game only went to overtime because Cable called a late timeout that negated Jay Feely's missed field goal at the end of regulation. Feely made good on his second attempt, a 52-yarder with 3 seconds left that sent the game to overtime.

In OT, the teams traded punts on the first five possessions before JaMarcus Russell hit Javon Walker for 16 yards and Zach Miller for 27 to move the Raiders (2-4) into range.

Packers 34, Colts 14

At Green Bay, Wisconsin, Aaron Rodgers gutted out his third straight game with a sprained right shoulder, going 21-for-28 for 186 yards and a touchdown despite strong winds at Lambeau Field.

Ryan Grant had his first 100-yard game of the season, carrying 31 times for 105 yards and a touchdown.

The Packers' defense held Peyton Manning to 21-of-42 for 229 yards and two interceptions. Both were returned for touchdowns, by Nick Collins (62 yards) and Aaron Rouse (99 yards).

Buccaneers 20, Seahawks 10

At Tampa, Florida, Jeff Garcia completed 26 of 37 passes for 310 yards, including a 47-yard touchdown pass to Antonio Bryant on Tampa Bay's opening drive, and the Buccaneers beat the struggling Seattle.

Making his second straight start in place of Brian Griese, Garcia helped the NFC South-leading Bucs (5-2) improve to 4-0 at home.

Garcia clearly outplayed fellow backup-turned-starter Seneca Wallace, the Seahawks' third quarterback in three weeks.

Wallace was 12-of-23 for 73 yards, with a 2-yard touchdown pass to John Carlson with 1:55 left. Seattle (1-5) has lost three straight.

AP

St. Louis Rams running back Steven Jackson celebrates his eight-yard touchdown run during the first quarter of an NFL football game against the Dallas Cowboys, Sunday, Oct. 19, 2008, in St. Louis.

Redskins 14, Browns 11

At Landover, Maryland, Clinton Portis broke a scoreless tie with a 3-yard run in the third quarter and rushed for 175 yards on 27 carries, and Santana Moss spun his way to an 18-yard touchdown reception in the fourth quarter for Washington.

The Browns nearly recovered from a 14-3 deficit, scoring on Joshua Cribbs' 1-yard catch and Braylon Edwards' 2-point conversion reception with 2:44 to play. Cleveland then forced Washington to punt and drove to the Redskins 36 in the final minute, but Phil Dawson missed what would have been a career-long 54-yard field goal with 25 seconds to play.

Texans 28, Lions 21

At Houston, Owen Daniels scored two touchdowns and rookie Steve Slaton and Ahman Green added a touchdown each. Andre Johnson had 11 receptions for 141 yards for his third straight 100-yard game.

The Texans scored touchdowns on their first three possessions for the first time in team history. They weren't quite as sharp in the second half, punting on four of five possessions, and were outscored 17-7, allowing the Lions (0-6) to cut Houston's lead to a touchdown with about 4 minutes left.

The Texans (2-4) held the ball until there were just 20 seconds to go and Detroit's last play ended in a fumble.

Bills 23, Chargers 14

At Orchard Park, New York, Trent Edwards went 25-of-30 for 261 yards and a touchdown, and Kawika Mitchell intercepted a pass from Philip Rivers at the goal line to thwart a potential go-ahead score.

Mitchell's interception allowed Edwards to engineer a seven-play, 43-yard drive to set up Rian Lindell's 44-yard field goal with 3:17 remaining. Then Mitchell came through again, when he forced Rivers to fumble on San Diego's next possession.

Edwards hit Lee Evans on a 2-yard touchdown pass and Marshawn Lynch also scored for the AFC East-leading Bills, off to their first 5-1 start since 1995. Buffalo got the 200th home win in franchise history.

Titans 34, Chiefs 10

At Kansas City, Missouri, LenDale White rushed for three touchdowns and 149 yards, including an 80-yard sprint, and Chris Johnson unfurled a 66-yard gallop while rushing for 168 yards.

The Titans (6-0), who had never even been 5-0 in their history, scored 10 points on their first two possessions and were never threatened by the Chiefs (1-5), who seem headed for an even worse season than last year's 4-12.

The Chiefs got more: quarterback Brodie Croyle's knee injury will keep him out the rest of the season.

White went 80 yards virtually untouched in the fourth quarter, matching the franchise's longest run since 1983. Johnson made it 33-3 with 4:01 left in the third blowout loss the rebuilding Chiefs have experienced this year.

It was the first time since 1977 that two runners had gone over 100 yards against the Chiefs.

Steelers 38, Bengals 10

At Cincinnati, Mewelde Moore, a backup running back, scored a career-high three touchdowns, and the Steelers' defense took it from there.

Thousands of Steelers fans in the crowd of 65,860 twirled yellow Terrible Towels while the Steelers (5-1) solidified their hold on first place in the AFC North at a stadium that's as comfy as it gets on the road. Pittsburgh has won its past eight games at Paul Brown Stadium, each coming in a little different way.

Moore ran for 120 yards—only 18 shy of his career high—and touchdowns of 13 and 2 yards. He also caught a 2-yard touchdown pass on Pittsburgh's opening drive.¤

Giants 29, 49ers 17

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Brandon Jacobs ran for two touchdowns, Eli Manning threw for one, Michael Johnson had two interceptions and the Giants managed to make fewer mistakes than the woeful 49ers.

The victory was the fourth straight at home for the Giants (5-1)—one more than they had last season—and it sent the 49ers (2-5) to their fourth straight loss.

This one wasn't pretty for either team, especially San Francisco, which turned over the ball three times, allowed six sacks and had 13 penalties for 134 yards. Combined it handed New York 19 points.

Panthers 30, Saints 7

At Charlotte, Nort Carolina, Jake Delhomme threw for 195 yards and two touchdowns, Jonathan Stewart rushed for another score and the Panthers' defense shut down the Saints.

Drew Brees, who came in leading the NFL in completions and yards passing, was hounded all day and struggled with his accuracy. The Saints couldn't overcome the loss of running back Reggie Bush to a left knee injury and were smothered by the Panthers' improved defense.

Carolina (5-2) twice stopped New Orleans (3-4) on fourth down in the second half. Julius Peppers had a sack and a forced fumble and the Panthers posted another lopsided home win to improve to 4-0 at Bank of America Stadium.

Ravens 27, Dolphins 13

At Miami, the Baltimore Ravens' offensive coordinator orchestrated four scoring drives against the team he coached to only one win last year. Joe Flacco threw for 232 yards and a touchdown.

Miami's lone victory last season came against Baltimore in December, and that wasn't enough to save Cam Cameron's job. Since changing teams, he has searched for consistency from the Ravens and finally found it. They mustered scoring drives of 42, 67, 67 and 68 yards, with each lasting at least nine plays.

The NFL's top-ranked defense did the rest. Terrell Suggs scored on a 44-yard interception return, and the Ravens limited Ronnie Brown to 27 yards rushing. Baltimore blitzed to contain Miami's Wildcat offense, which netted only 4 yards in five plays.

NFL BRIEFS

Pacers grant Eddie Jones' wish to sit out season, get cap room

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Pacers are content to let Eddie Jones go his own way. After balking at the chance to join Indiana following last week's trade with Dallas, the 36-year-old Jones said he didn't want to play this season. The Pacers granted his wish Wednesday. Team officials and Jones' agent agreed to free Jones from coming to Indiana in exchange for additional room under the NBA's salary cap. "Eddie Jones will not join the Pacers, but the franchise will recoup the ability to sign another player as a result of an agreement reached today," the team said in a statement released Wednesday night. "The Pacers worked with agent Leon Rose and reached an agreement that lowers the salary-cap figure for the one season remaining on Jones' contract." That clears up additional room to sign a veteran player to a minimum contract without triggering the NBA's luxury tax. It also means the Pacers could add another player to a roster that has already undergone a major facelift. Six-time All-Star forward Jermaine O'Neal and Shawne Williams have been traded, and the Pacers would still like to trade guard Jamaal Tinsley, who has three years and $21 million left on his contract.

Heat lose Jones for three months

MIAMI (AP)—The Miami Heat will be without forward James Jones for three months because of a ruptured tendon in his right wrist, adding to the team's injury woes. Jones, a Miami native, was signed as a free agent this summer to give the Heat a 3-point shooter the team lacked last season, when it stumbled to the NBA's worst record. He'd been slowed throughout camp because of a sprained wrist, but even this week, the team was hopeful his return would come in a matter of days. Jones ruptured the tendon while shooting on Wednesday. "Just imagine somebody punching you in your stomach as hard as they can," Jones said. "I felt like I was turning the corner." The surgery will be performed Saturday. Jones averaged eight points last season for Portland, and his 44 percent shooting from 3-point range ranked second in the NBA. Jones is the second Miami player to be lost for an extended period because of injury so far this season; center Jamaal Magloire will miss 6-8 weeks because of a broken left hand that will not require surgery. The Heat may try to make a move to add a 3-point shooter to the roster before the preseason ends.

Thunder excercises Durant option

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The Oklahoma City Thunder have exercised their team options to keep reigning rookie of the year Kevin Durant and fellow first-round pick Jeff Green with the team through next season. General manager Sam Presti announced the moves Thursday. NBA rookies get two-year contracts with teams having the option to pick up a third season. Durant averaged 20.3 points and 4.3 rebounds last season before the team relocated from Seattle to Oklahoma City during the offseason. Green averaged 10.5 points and 4.7 rebounds. Both made the NBA's All-Rookie team.

Red Bull breaks into win column

MANILA, Philippines—Red Bull ended its slump with a good opportunity presenting itself for the taking.

The Barakos asserted themselves early and went on to score their first win in the KFC PBA Philippine Cup with a 100-94 whipping of the badly crippled Barangay Ginebra Kings Sunday night at the Araneta Coliseum.

"It was the best time to beat Ginebra because they're not complete. We also caught them on an off-night. So two things worked against them and we just pounced on it," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao.

"Finally, nanalo ng ang team na barya-barya lang at uhugin. We're still learning. With five newcomers, kailangan pa namin ng time for adjustments. But I think we can get there and make good account of ourselves. Our goal is to improve every game, win or lose," Guiao added.

The Barakos showed marked improvement in their game against the Kings, succeeding on where two teams before them failed.

Despite a lineup minus Mark Caguioa, Rafi Reavis and Billy Mamaril, Ginebra opened the season with back-to-back wins over defending champion Sta. Lucia Realty and Fiesta Cup runner-up Air21.

But Ginebra's streak ended there.

Gabby Espinas, Cyrus Baguio, Carlo Sharma, Paolo Hubalde and Rich Alvarez all finished in double figures as Red Bull arrested their slump as well as Ginebra's roll. The Barakos tied Air21, Purefoods and Coca-Cola at 1-3.

It was Red Bull's first win since winning the one-game battle for third place in the Fiesta Conference against Magnolia (now San Miguel Beer). Before that game, the Barakos were swept away by the Kings in their best-of-seven semifinals playoff.

The Barakos scored some measure of revenge by imposing their will early and having an answer on every Ginebra challenge in the contest marred by the early ejection of Ronald Tubid due to a flagrant foul penalty 2.

After three lead changes, the Barakos raced to a 30-22 lead in the first quarter and held sway the rest of the way.

A basket each by Espinas, Baguio and Sharma in a 6-2 exchange all but settled the outcome of the game at 90-75 with three minutes left to play.

The Barakos controlled the game with a 42.3-percent shooting as against the Kings' 33-percent clip.

Jayjay Helterbrand sizzled with 15 points in the first half but was limited to seven in the last two quarters.

Compounding Ginebra's woes was Alex Crisano's ouster on fouls with over five minutes left in the contest.

Red Bull 100 – Espinas 18, Baguio 15, Sharma 14, Hubalde 12, Alvarez 12, Rodriguez 8, Chan 7, Cruz 6, Duncil 5, Membrere 3, Najorda 0, Hrabak 0.

Ginebra 94 – Helterbrand 22, Pacana 18, Salvacion 12, Wilson 10, Cabatu 8, Crisano 8, Artadi 6, Menk 6, Tubid 4, Escalona 0, Holper 0, Valenzuela 0.

Quarterscores: 30-22, 51-39, 70-62, 100-94. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

Air 21 wakes up from slumber, beats Coke

MANILA, Philippines—It took three losses before Air21 awakened. Once it did, however, it flashed the form that made it the sensation in the last Fiesta Conference.

This the Express proved by beating the Coca-Cola Tigers, 95-84, Friday to finally crash the win-column of the KFC PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Tigers were coming off a strength-sapping double overtime win only two days before, but Air21 coach Bo Perasol said it was his players' realizing their recent Fiesta finals stint was behind them that spurred them to notch their first victory.

"It was really hard for our players after that (runner-up finish to Barangay Ginebra)," related Perasol. "Ang hirap nilang hatakin pababa, with all the recognition they were getting. In their minds, (this conference) would be easy."

For Perasol, however, those initial losses also helped stir up their current will to win. "Those were wake-up calls for us," he stated.

Air21 95 – Santos 25, De Ocampo 19, David 15, Arboleda 11, Kramer 10, Quinahan 4, Canaleta 4, Intal 3, Sta. Maria 3, Cruz 1, Villanueva 0.

Coca-Cola 84 – Belasco 22, Taulava 16, Buenafe 12, Telan 9, Macapagal 6, Cabagnot 6, Dimaunahan 6, Arigo 5, Misolas 2, Baguion 0.

Scoring by quarters: 23-21, 42-50, 62-63, 95-84. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

SSC

From Page 28

in at 39.75 seconds. He then shaved off almost 10 seconds of his old PBT in the 50m backstroke, recording 51.10 seconds.

The biggest drop came from Rena Son, who chopped off 24 and 17 seconds off her previous PBTs in the 50m breaststroke and 50m backstroke swims. Son clocked in at 1:06.95 in the 50m breaststroke and 56.41 seconds in the backstroke swim.

Not to be outdone were SSC senior swimmers Pamaran and Lapuz.

The 17-year-old Pamaran shattered his old PBT in the 50m breaststroke, timing in at 38.31 seconds. He also broke his old PBT in the 100m breaststroke after posting 1:27.16.

Lapuz duplicated Pamaran's feats, making new PBTs in the 100m breaststroke (1:30.40) and 50m freestyle (30.85 seconds).

Blasberg, who along with Villagomez took over the SSC coaching post after Michael Stewart left the island in July, had all praises for their swimmers.

"I was very pleased with our swims and I'm excited to see how much more time our swimmers can drop in future meets. Overall I think the meet was a great success. Tsunami offered some strong competition, especially for our senior swimmers, but with strong performances by our junior swimmers I think we held our own," Blasberg said.

Saturday's meet was Blasberg and Villagomez's firsts as coaches of SSC. In a tournament in May, Blasberg was still assisting Stewart. Early this month, SSC hired the services of Villagomez to help run the club's six-days-a-week training sessions.

"I was proud to see our swimmers step up and give their all, even if it wasn't their best performance I think everyone walked off the deck with nothing left. As a coach, you can't ask for more than that," Blasberg said.

With SSC swimmers' impressive results in the dual meet, Blasberg is looking forward to the next dual meet and tournaments in Guam before the year ends.

"With our workout intensity and dry land/cross training increasing I think we're going to continue to see big improvements in our swimmers," he said.

DCEPT 6

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top of the seventh inning for the first out.

Skip Palacios kept Faja's title bid alive when he hit a solo over-the-fence homer to leftfield.

But that was the last time Faja scored, as Doi Manalo was beaten to first on a 6-3 putout play. The game ended after third baseman Luis Iguel caught a grounder from Phil Celis, who did not even attempt to run to first base, knowing Iguel was headed for a quick throw.

Luis Iguel went 4-for-4 in the deciding Game 2, scoring three runs, two singles, a double and a two-run homer.

Leftfielder Byron Kaipat also had a two-run homer in the first inning and was 2-for-3 at the plate. Rightfielder Ben Taisakan was the third DCEPT 6 player to make a two-run homer and he also went 2-for-3.

Toi Celis had two homers in Game 2 and was 3-for-3 at the plate, while the rest of his teammates struggled, hitting fly balls which DCEPT 6 fielders usually caught.

Eleven teams competed in the weekend tournament. The list include Mangge, FAS, Your Balls, Sufa, Miller Killer, Heats, AJ's, Natibu, and Sakudi Umbre.

DECEPT 6 defeated Sakudi (4-2), AJ's (8-6), and Faja (12-9), in the preliminaries.

Faja prevailed over FAS, 11-6, and Mangge, 13-5, and advanced to the finals after beating Sufa in the losers' bracket semifinals, 10-6.

JONES

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reach Banzai Cliff with a time of 37:30. Amy Arenovski (42:40) and Amber Patttillo (45:28) came in second and third.

Chambers, meanwhile, was first in the 1-kilometer kids race after the 7-year-old checked in at 18:21. Edward Joon Cho and Zoe Provido came in second and third in the co-ed competition with times of 20:56 and 20:58, respectively.

Last Saturday's early morning fun run drew a total of 138 individuals, according to coordinator Betty Johnson. The event started from Banzai Cliff and had participants run toward Cowtown Raceway Park and back to the finish line at Banzai Cliff.

The open division saw Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel win the men's division with a time of 19:16. While the former record-holder's time was still off Eli Torgeson's new standard of 16:40, the man who fondly calls himself Roadrunner Bunny vowed to obliterate the anesthesiologist's time next year.

Finishing second and third in the men's open were Northern Marianas Athletics up-and-coming runners Champ Untalan (19:57) and Matthew Mancao (20:34).

Mieko Carey, for her part, shattered Mamiko Berger's record of 21:51 for the women after crossing the finish line in 21:23.

Checking in after Carey in the women's division were Rebecca Read (21:55) and Monica Yamaguchi (24:09).

Johnson, meanwhile, thanked the following sponsors for their in-kind donations for the SIS Fun Run: AIC Marianas, Big Dipper, Deloitte, Delta Management, DFS Galleria, Hawaiian Rock Products, Himawari, Marianas Medical Center, Micronesian Marine, Pacific Islands Club (PIC), PTI, Saipan Ice, Shell, The Financial Group, The Water Company, Tropical Blend Spa, and Claybodies Art Studio.

30K

From Page 28

spite recording the lowest net score in the one-day tournament.

Tournament coordinator Ben Babauta said that this year's the event will return to the regular format with the winners to be decided by the lowest net scores.

"We are encouraging golf enthusiasts on the island to join us in a tournament for a worthy cause," Babauta said.

Part of the proceeds from the tournament will go to the Kagman Community Children's Park.

Golfers wishing to compete in next month's tournament must pay the $100 entrance fee. Entry forms should be returned to Babauta before the start of the tournament.

For more information, contact Babauta at 236-2563 or 483-2563.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	5	1	0	.833	149	118
New England	3	2	0	.600	89	109
N.Y. Jets	3	3	0	.500	154	146
Miaml	2	4	0	.333	120	130

South

Tennessee	6	0	0	1.000	149	66
Jacksonville	3	3	0	.500	124	128
Indianapolis	3	3	0	.500	128	131
Houston	2	4	0	.333	140	179

North

Pittsburgh	5	1	0	.833	141	89
Baltimore	3	3	0	.500	105	100
Cleveland	2	4	0	.333	92	106
Cincinnatl	0	7	0	.000	98	182

West

Denver	4	2	0	.667	166	154
San Diego	3	4	0	.429	192	162
Oakland	2	4	0	.333	97	148
Kansas City	1	5	0	.167	75	165

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	5	1	0	.833	170	101
Washington	5	2	0	.714	140	128
Dallas	4	3	0	.571	189	175
Philadelphia	3	3	0	.500	167	123

South

Carolina	5	2	0	.714	147	104
Tampa Bay	5	2	0	.714	161	107
Atlanta	4	2	0	.667	139	127
New Orleans	3	4	0	.429	179	163

North

Chicago	4	3	0	.571	196	150
Green Bay	4	3	0	.571	194	159
Minnesota	3	4	0	.429	154	167
Detroit	0	6	0	.000	97	187

West

Arizona	4	2	0	.667	177	144
St. Louis	2	4	0	.333	96	178
San Francisco	2	5	0	.286	158	196
Seattle	1	5	0	.177	1010	171

Yesterday's Games

Baltimore 27, Miami 13
St. Louis 34, Dallas 14
Chicago 48, Minnesota 41
Buffalo 23, San Diego 14
Tennessee 34, Kansas City 10
N.Y. Giants 29, San Francisco 17
Pittsburgh 38, Cincinnati 10
Carolina 30, New Orleans 7
Houston 28, Detroit 21
Oakland 16, N.Y. Jets 13, OT
Washington 14, Cleveland 11
Green Bay 34, Indianapolis 14
Tampa Bay 20, Seattle 10

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN OPEN SCORES

LAS VEGAS (AP)–Scores Sunday from the Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospitals for hildren Open, a $4.1 million (3 million euro) U.S. PGA Tour event on 7,243-yard, par-72 TPC Summerlin:

FINAL ROUND

Marc Turnesa	62-64-69-68	263
Matt Kuchar	63-63-71-67	264
Chad Campbell	65-67-67-67	266
John Mallinger	64-64-70-68	266
Michael Allen	63-69-64-70	266
Tim Herron	72-65-68-62	267
Davis Love III	68-67-65-67	267
Scott Sterling	69-65-70-64	268
Tom Pernice, Jr.	68-68-67-65	268
Charles Howell III	67-67-69-66	269
Mike Weir	69-68-66-66	269
Brad Adamonis	67-65-66-71	269
Zach Johnson	62-65-70-72	269
Chris DiMarco	69-64-63-73	269
Ryuji Imada	67-66-71-66	270
Bob Estes	66-68-70-66	270
James Driscoll	71-65-68-66	270
Daniel Chopra	69-65-68-68	270
Charley Hoffman	67-67-68-68	270
Kevin Na	64-70-67-69	270
George McNeill	67-67-67-69	270
Brian Davis	65-68-66-71	270
Ken Duke	63-66-67-74	270
Hunter Mahan	65-69-72-65	271
Mathew Goggin	8-67-71-65	271
Jason Day	70-67-68-66	271
Mark Wilson	70-65-69-67	271
Kent Jones	69-69-66-67	271
Mark Hensby	69-65-68-69	271
Kevin Sutherland	69-67-66-69	271
Fred Couples	68-64-69-70	271
Bill Haas	68-68-65-70	271
Pat Perez	66-63-71-71	271
Ryan Moore	66-64-68-73	271
Chris Stroud	65-65-67-74	271
Jeff Maggert	70-68-69-65	272
Eric Axley	68-69-69-66	272
Nick Watney	63-68-73-68	272
Parker McLachlin	67-69-67-69	272
Woody Austin	67-67-68-70	272
Robert Garrigus	65-69-68-70	272
Jesper Parnevik	69-65-66-72	272
Tim Wilkinson	72-65-70-66	273
Kevin Streelman	68-69-68-68	273
John Huston	71-63-69-70	273
Joe Durant	65-70-68-70	273
Brett Quigley	68-67-72-67	274
Frank Lickliter II	65-69-71-69	274
Martin Laird	67-68-70-69	274
Dean Wilson	69-63-72-70	274
Steve Marino	71-64-69-70	274
Chez Reavie	64-66-69-75	274
Charlie Wl	69-66-71-69	275
Ben Crane	69-69-68-69	275
Bo Van Pelt	67-69-68-71	275
Rich Beem	66-65-72-72	275
Jason Gore	68-70-68-70	276
Steve Lowery	68-70-70-69	277
Peter Lonard	66-69-72-70	277
Omar Uresti	68-70-70-70	278
Charles Warren	65-72-67-74	278
Jason Allred	69-69-70-71	279
John Riegger	66-68-70-75	279
Mike Ruiz	67-71-69-73	280
Matt Jones	66-71-71-73	281
David Duval	69-68-69-75	281
Nick Flanagan	64-74-68-76	282
Patrick Sheehan	68-69-66-79	282
Jeff Overton	69-69-70-76	284
Kenneth Ferrie	66-70-70-78	284
Nicholas Thompson	68-65-75-79	287

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Olivos nips AON; Diamond leads suspended game

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Guards Bernard Montano and Nate Mateo joined forces in the fourth quarter to lift Olivos/GEC to a 102-99 victory over AON Insurance in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League Sunday night at the CIC Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

Mateo and Montano fired 10 points apiece in the crucial fourth period to help Olivos/GEC recover from its debut loss to C&R Distributors, 96-103.

Montano top-scored for Olivos/GEC with 26 points, while Mateo tallied all his 18 points in the second half.

The AON-Olivos/GEC game was a close match with neither team able to lead by more than 10 points.

Jon Lim hit two early triples to give AON a 25-20 lead at the end of the first period. But Olivos/GEC grabbed the driver's seat at halftime, 46-41, as Montano found his rhythm in the second period, nailing 11 markers.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

C&R Distributors' Jun Estolas goes for a floater against Diamond Auto Care's Ed Cosino during their game in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League Sunday night at the CIC Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

Lim was off in the second canto, but redeemed himself in the third period, firing 14 markers. Mateo was scoreless in the first half, but was 4-for-4 from the free throw line and scored four more points. Montano and Mike Umali added five points apiece to survive Lim's scoring binge in the third quarter, which ended in a deadlock, 72-all.

The fourth quarter was a seesaw battle with Mateo, Montano, and Umali drilling crucial baskets in the closing minutes of the game to give Olivos/GEC the three-point win.

Olivos/GEC had seven players scoring in double figures. Amor Casabuena fired 15, Glen Mercurio and Umali netted 11 apiece, and Ivan De Vero and Peter Mendiola chipped in 10 each. Mercurio had an all-round game, as he also grabbed 11 rebounds, recorded six assists, and made three steals.

Lim led all scorers with 31 points, while Leo Apelo contributed 15 for AON, which dropped to a 1-1 record. AON won its debut against Century Insurance, 103-87.

In the second game, Diamond Auto Care was leading C&R Distributors, 85-83, when the game was suspended due to rain with 5:29 left in the fourth quarter.

The match will resume on a later date with Diamond's Elmer Esdrelon taking two free throws off a James Villacrusis foul.

Sahnee Ranola was leading Diamond Auto Care with his 17 points. Darwn Barbo has scored 14, while Ronald Delos Reyes has nailed 14.

Jericho Cruz has fired 19 points for C&R, while Jun Estolas has netted 16 markers.

C&R Distributors was gunning for its second win to join early leader MIGS, while Diamond Auto Care was hoping to recover from its 83-113 loss to MIGS.

Olivos/GEC 102 – Montano 26, Mateo 18, Casabuena 15, Umali 11, Mercurio 11, De Vero 10, Mendiola 10, Olivos 1.

AON Insurance 99 – Lim 31, Apelo 15, Eclevia 13, Factor 10, De Guzman 10, Mendoza 8, Capuyon 5, De Dios 3, Santos 1.

Scoring by quarters: 20-25, 46-41, 72-all, 102-99.

NMIFA U12 football league draws 17 teams

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Seventeen teams will be competing in the Inaugural 2008 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League which is expected to kick off tomorrow after last week's opening games were cancelled due to rain.

The first-ever U12 league is divided into two divisions, namely the Southern and Northern groups.

Each group will play a single-round robin regular season with the top two teams in each division advancing to the playoffs. Games will be played every Wednesday, but schedules are subject to change depending on the availability of the schools. Matches will be played in fields of various schools.

The Northern Group is composed of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Garapan Elementary School, Kagman Elementary School, Whispering Palms School, Eucon International School, Saipan International School, and Tanapag Elementary School.

The Southern Group will have Dandan Elementary School A and B, Saipan Community School, William S. Reyes School, Koblerville Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, San Antonio Elementary School, and Oleai Elementary School.

Last week, the U12 league was supposed to open with two games.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Youth strikers in action in one of NMIFA's leagues last year. Tomorrow, students will be debuting in the 2008 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League.

The Garapan Mallards were scheduled to duel the Whispering Palms Terns with the former hosting the game on their field. The Kagman Marlins were also set to play last week against Eucon at GTC field.

Tomorrow, four games are scheduled in various fields.

In the Northern Group, Tanapag will host SIS, while GTC will be playing in its home turf against Whispering Palms.

In the Southern Group, the Oleai Turtles will challenge the San Antonio Octopus in the latter's home field. In the other game over at the San Vicente field, the WSR Kingfisher will collide with Dandan A Tottots.

Regular season games in the Northern Group will conclude in the last week of November, while the Southern Group's will end in the first week of December, as they have more teams than the Northern Group.

The U12 league was created through the efforts of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, the Public Schools System, and several private schools on Saipan.

On and off-island companies, and individuals donated equipment package last month to allow schools to get ready for the league.

Several coaching clinics were also held to prepare teachers/coaches for the inaugural interscholastic league, which is replacing the one weekend only football tournament held in the past several leagues.

NMIFA through the help of school officials and coaches wanted to have an organized interscholastic league to see continuity in the youth football program.

No pay, no play rule in govt softball league

Organizers of the 2008-2009 Men's and Women's Inter-government/Business Softball League are reminding teams that tomorrow is the last day to pay the entrance fee of $350.

Teams that will not be able to pay the registration fee will not be allowed to participate in the annual league.

"The league will enforce a no pay, no play rule," said organizer Joey Dela Cruz of the Division of Sports and Recreation.

Dela Cruz added that a final meeting is set for tomorrow. Representatives of teams participating in the men's division are asked to attend a meeting at 9:30am, while the meeting for the women's division is scheduled at 1pm.

So far, 13 teams from various government agencies have shown their interests in competing in the men's division. The list include defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Procurement & Supply, Public School System, Division of Environmental Quality/Coastal Resources Management, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Legislature, Parks and Recreation, Hopwood, Judiciary, and Customs.

The business sector is represented by Beach Boys, Freedom Air, Joeten, Pacific Islands Club, SaipanCell, and POI.

Only six teams are listed in the women's division, namely the defending champion DCCA, Northern Marianas College, PSS, Finance, Commonwealth Health Center, and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Games in the softball league will be played three times a week, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Three games are set per playing day.

The men's division will have a round-robin format in the regular season with the Top 10 teams advancing to the double-elimination playoffs.

The women's division will play in a three-round robin regular season with the Top 4 squads going into the playoffs, which will also have a double-elimination format.

Matches will be played at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield with the opening games to be discussed in tomorrow's meeting.

If the "Tan Ge" ballfield is unplayable, games will be moved to the Capital Hill Ballfield.

For more information, contact Dela Cruz at 664-2503. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

RGA November qualifier this Sunday

Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold the qualifying tournament for its November Ace of the Month this Sunday, Oct. 26, at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

Tournament director Jess Wabol said check-in time for the weekend competition is 11am with tee time set an hour later at 12pm. A total of 16 slots will be available for RGA members.

Wabol also reminded Ace of the Month winners that they need to have played in a minimum of six tournaments (including qualifiers) in order to qualify for the yearend RGA Club Championship.

The Club Championship assembles all 12 monthly champions, provided they qualify.

In related news, the Marianas Country Club will also be the venue for RGA's Inaugural Memorial Classic set on Nov. 8.

The Memorial Classic takes the place of the Turkey Shoot and will be held to honor RGA's departed members Plas Tagabuel, Sid K. Peter, and Tony Taitano.

According to Wabol all golfers in the CNMI can take part in the tournament, which tees off at 7:30am following a 6:30am check-in time. Entry fee for the one-day tournament is $100.

For more information about RGA and the rest of its events in the 2008 calendar, contact Wabol at 233-3673 or RGA president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Olivos nips AON; Diamond leads suspended game

Guards Bernard Montano and Nate Mateo joined forces in the fourth quarter to lift Olivos/GEC to a 102-99 victory over AON Insurance in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League. 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Rays beat Bosox 3-1, advance to World Series

Down to their last chance, the Tampa Bay Rays left no doubt they were World Series-worthy, after all.

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SSC swimmers set personal bests

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club swimmers celebrated the coaching debuts of Mike Blasberg and Mike Villagomez with personal best performances during the SSC-Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan Dual Meet Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

SSC had six of it 14 swimmers making personal best times in the dual meet. The list include sisters Abigail and Emma Martinsen, Bryce Daly, Junior Pamaran, Lester Lapuz, and Rena Son.

Completing the SSC roster in the dual meet were Grace and Andrew Kimball, Keanna Villagomez, Sylvia Lee, Alex Jeong, Ryu Tanzawa, Victoria Chentsova, Michael Moran, and Maxi Braig.

Abigail recorded new personal best times in the 50m backstroke and 100m freestyle swims. The 10-year-old Abigail posted 49.28 seconds in the 50m back, dropping almost two seconds from her previous time. In the 100m freestyle, Abigail clocked in at 38.04 seconds, chopping off five seconds from her previous PBT.

Abigail'syoungersister—Emma—broke her PBT in the 50m backstroke and 50m freestyle. Emma's 1:17.89 in the 50m freestyle was 19 seconds ahead of her previous PBT. In the 50m backstroke, Emma shaved off more than 11 seconds from her previous PBT after clocking in at 1:22.76.

Bryce Daly broke the 40-second barrier in the 50m freestyle, timing

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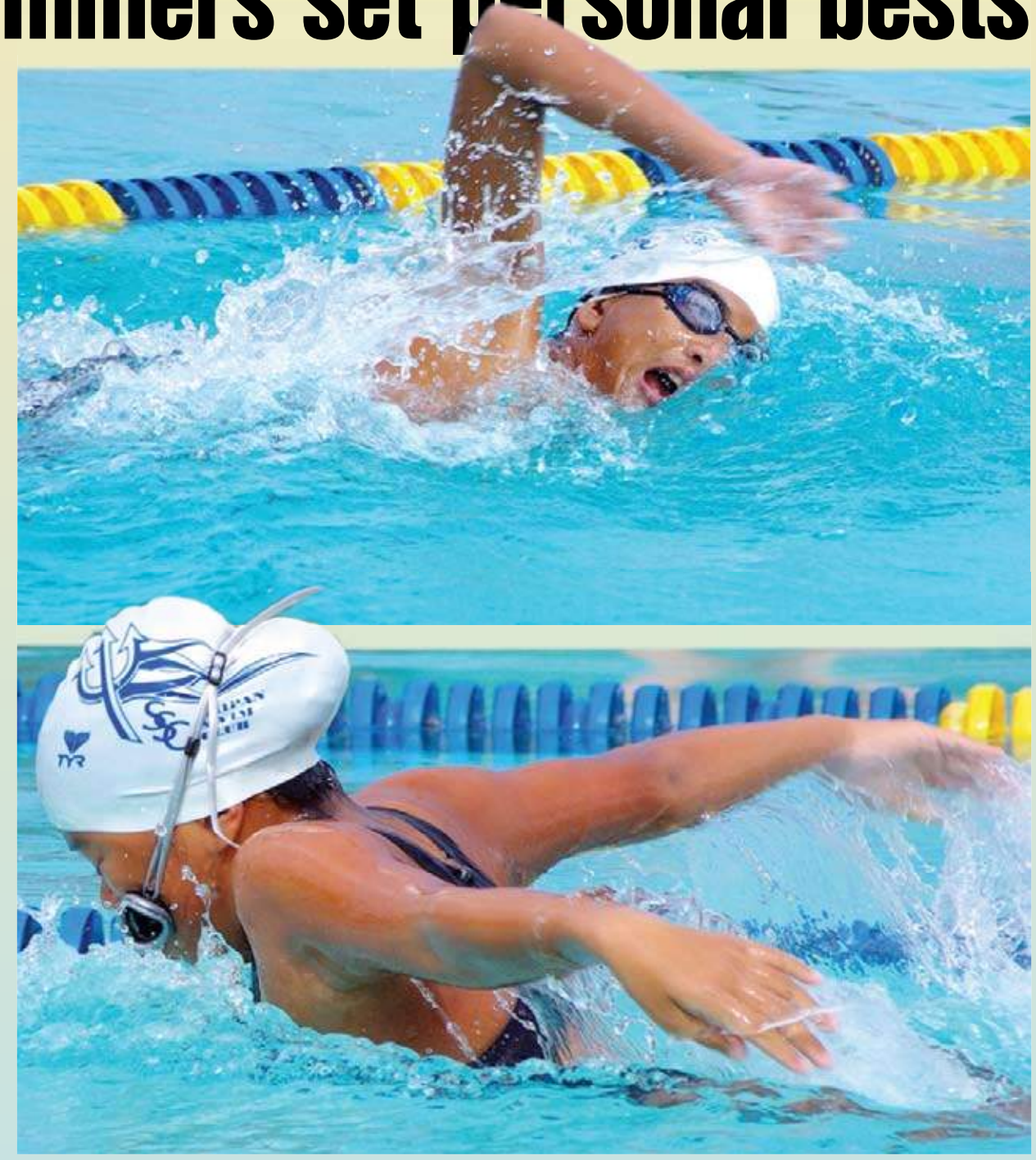

DAN KIMBALL

Above, Lester Lapuz competes in the 100m freestyle swim during the Saipan Swim Club-Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan Dual Meet Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi. Abigail Martinsen loses her goggles but still finished the 50m butterfly race, below.

Jones, Chambers win their age groups

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Angello Jones and Cole Chambers won their age group divisions in last Saturday's 8th Annual Saipan International School 5K Fun Run held in Marpi.

Jones topped the under-13 division of the five-kilometer race after crossing the finish line at Banzai Cliff in 24:03. He was followed by Kenyon Shultz and Nuri Gutzwiller with times of 25:18 and 25:32, respectively.

In the women's under-13 competition, Gabrielle Race was the first to

See JONES on Page 26

MARK RABAGO

Angello Jones topped the under-13 division of last Saturday's 8th Annual Saipan International School 5K Fun Run with a time of 24:03.

DCEPT 6 wins Customs softball tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

DCEPT 6 needed an extra game to thwart Faha and top the 2008 Customs Goodwill Fundraising Softball Tournament held over the weekend at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

DCEPT 6 earned a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals having swept its three games in the elimination round, but failed to finish the job early, losing Game 1, 8-19.

In Game 2, DCEPT 6 got its act together and recorded a 16-5 victory to foil Faja's upset bid.

A seven-run bottom of the fourth helped DCEPT 6 pull away, taking a 13-5 lead, going into the last three innings.

DCEPT 6 scored three runs off Faja's errors, as the latter's outfielders and first and second basemen had butterfingers, losing the ball several times.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of DCEPT 6 pose for a group photo after ruling the 2008 Customs Goodwill Fundraising Softball Tournament held over the weekend at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

In contrast, DCEPT 6's defense hung in there, giving up no runs in the next two innings.

Going into the top of the last inning, DCEPT 6 was ahead by 11 runs, 16-5.

Faja was forced to score at least 11 runs to tie and extend the game, but failed to deliver under pressure.

DCEPT 6 pitcher Elias Rangamar struck out Faha's leadoff batter at the

See DCEPT 6 on Page 26

$30K hole-in-one prizes in Rotary golf

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A total of $30,000 in cash prizes await hole-in-one winners in the Rotary Club of Saipan's 2008 District Governor's Charity Golf Tournament slated on Nov. 9 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Hole-in-one winners in the 3rd, 13th, and 17th holes on the west course of the Kagman golf facility will each receive $10,000 in cash.

Shell Marianas is sponsoring hole No. 3, which is a par-3, 189-yard hole. Hole-in-one prize on the par-3 158-yard hole No. 13 will come from First Hawaiian Bank. The third hole-in-one prize on the par-3, 180-yard No. 17 will be given by AON Insurance.

A special prize also awaits the winner of the closest to the pin contest on the par-3, 160-yard hole No. 7.

On top of the special prizes, the Top 5 placers in the annual tournament are guaranteed cash prizes.

The top finisher will get $500, $400 for second, $300 for third, $200 for fourth, and $100 for fifth. Consolation prizes will be given to the 6th to 10th placers.

This year's Rotary golf tournament will have a double-peoria format.

Showtime is at 6am, while a shotgun start is set for 7am.

Awarding ceremony will be held at the "The Range" with organizers giving raffle prizes to participants.

Last year, Martin Duenas won the Rotary golf fundraiser despite failing to finish on top of the field, landing in 11th place among 65 participants.

Organizers awarded the $500 cash prize and a trophy to the tournament's 11th placer, as the event was held on the 11th day of the 11th month.

Hiroyuki Sugimoto finished 40th, but received the runner-up prize, as the Rotary Club of Saipan celebrated its 40th anniversary.

Alex Aquiningoc settled for third de-

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